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Flight operations at Delhi airport return to normal

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India's CPI inflation at an 8-yr low of 0.4-0.6%: BoB

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India clinch T20I series against Australia

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 9 NOVEMBER 2025 | SUNDAY | BENGALURU | 17 JUMADA I, 1447 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 305 | Pages: 8

Winter session of Parliament from 1 to 19 Dec

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The Winter session of Parliament will be held from 1 to 19 December, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday. "The Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the #WinterSession of Parliament from 1st December 2025 to 19th December, 2025 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary business)," Rijiju said on X. "Looking forward to a constructive and meaningful Session that strengthens our democracy and serves the aspirations of the people," he said. The Opposition Congress slammed the BJP for "truncating" the Session, saying that 15 days was unusually short. *—PTI*

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NGO Educate Girls wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

MANILA, 8 NOV

Indian non-profit Educate Girls has received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award and dedicated it to its 55,000 volunteers working to bring millions of girls back to school. Founded in 2007, the organisation operates across 30,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar. It has helped enrol over two million girls and supported 2.4 million children through remedial programmes. Accepting the award in Manila, founder Safeena Husain said the recognition honours the "courage and resilience" of girls and the volunteers who stand by them. CEO Gayatri Nair Lobo said the award fuels their goal of reaching 10 million learners by 2035. The revered Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called Asia's Nobel Prize. *—PTI*

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Puri stampede: Odisha takes action against 7 cops

BHUBANESWAR, 8 NOV

The Odisha government has initiated disciplinary action against seven police officers and a private technology firm due to lapses that contributed to a fatal stampede in Puri. The incident, which occurred on 29 June during the Rath Yatra near the Shree Gundicha Temple, resulted in the deaths of three individuals with 20 injured. An inquiry uncovered that the two senior officers responsible for crowd management, Ajay Kumar Padhi and Vishnu Prasad Pati, were absent when it occurred. It also highlighted significant flaws in the AI-based surveillance and crowd monitoring system under the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), with only 123 out of 275 cameras operational. *—PTI*

Got Health issues? No US visa for you

Diabetes, age, weight, cardio illness, cancer are all grounds to deny a visa: Report

NEW YORK, 8 NOV

The Trump administration has directed consular offices across the world to deny visas to people seeking to live in the US certain medical conditions, saying these people could end up relying on public benefits, a report said.

A report by KFF Health News said that foreigners applying for visas to live in the US "might be rejected if they have certain medical conditions".

The report cited a guidance issued in a cable sent by the State Department to embassy and consular officials.

"You must consider an applicant's health…Certain medical conditions – including, but not limited to, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, cancers, diabetes, metabolic diseases, neurological diseases, and mental health conditions – can require hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of care," according to the cable cited by KFF.

The cable also advises visa officers to consider conditions like obesity in making their decisions, noting that the condition can cause asthma, sleep apnoea and high blood pressure.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

- A report by KFF Health News said that foreigners applying for visas to live in the US "might be rejected if they have certain medical conditions." Family members' health is also screened

The officers are advised to take into consideration the medical conditions to assess whether an immigrant could become a public charge and "require expensive, long-term care".

The new guidance directs "visa officers to deem applicants ineligible to enter the US for several new reasons, including age or the likelihood they might rely on public benefits".

"The guidance says that such people could become a 'public charge' — a potential drain on US resources — because of their health issues or age," the KFF Health News report said.

The cable directs visa officers to also assess if applicants are financially stable to pay for their medical treatment without help from the US government.

The guidance also directs visa officers to consider the health of family members, including children or older parents.

"Do any of the dependents have disabilities, chronic medical conditions or other special needs and require care such that the applicant cannot maintain employment?" the cable said.

The new guidance comes amid increased crackdown on immigration. *—PTI*

K'taka's campaign against vote theft gets 1.12 cr signatures

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that 1.12 crore signatures have been collected in the State as part of the signature campaign against vote theft launched by AICC leaders.

The Congress had launched the campaign after party leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that there was rampant "vote chori" occurring in the country. Most recently, he dropped his "hydrogen bomb," claiming that 25 lakh votes were illegal in Haryana's 2024 Assembly elections.

"We have collected signatures from 40 political districts in the State. The campaign went off very well and we have collected 1,12,40,000 signatures," Shivakumar said at the Bharat Jodo Bhavan at Congress Bhavan on Saturday. "We have decided to share the signatures to Delhi on 10 November. There is a massive rally being planned at Ram Leela Maidan in Delhi on 25 November."

Shivakumar said that the Karnataka had collected the most number of signatures.

The Congress alleged that "vote chori" has occurred in two constituencies – Aland and Mahadevapura. AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan had spearheaded the initial probe in Mahadevapura.

Shivakumar said that the SIT which is probing the alleged vote theft in Aland will submit its report "soon."

Asked why the party has not moved the courts or submitted an affidavit to the EC, he said, "We are seeking supplementary documents from the EC but they are not giving. Let them give and then we will submit an affidavit. The media investigated vote fraud in Mahadevapura and found that more than 84 voters in one address. The EC hasn't done anything."

—Salar News

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CM Siddaramaiah & AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan at a press meet for the 'vote chori' campaign in the City. Khan, who contested from the Mahadevapuru constituency, had spearheaded the Congress' first probe into the alleged vote theft during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD

VVPATS FOUND DISCARDED IN BIHAR

A large number of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips were found scattered on a roadside in Bihar's Samastipur district on Saturday. The RJD shared the video on X, alleging serious malpractice. The Election Commission then claimed that the slips were for the mock poll ahead of the voting day, but suspended of an Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) anyway.

No cameras allowed inside Ajmer Dargah's sanctum: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

In a landmark judgement, Delhi High Court ordered the Centre, on 6 November, to safeguard both the religious sanctity and statutory governance of the revered temple of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer.

Justice Sachin Datta ordered the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs to constitute a new Dargah Khwaja Saheb Committee within three months, in accordance with the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act of 1955.

The court noted that the tenure of the previous committee expired in 2022 and that no new body had been appointed since, contrary to the provisions of the Act.

Addressing petitioner's concerns regarding the sanctity and privacy of the Astana Sharif (sanctum sanctorum) under the main dome of the Ajmer Dargah, the court clarified that no CCTV cameras shall be installed inside the sanctum. "CCTV cameras will not be installed inside the sanctum sanctorum (Astana Sharif) and will cover only the public approach areas," the order stated.

Justice Datta directed the Minority Affairs ministry to constitute new Dargah Khwaja Saheb Committee within three months and to fill all vacancies as required under the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955.

This clarification upholds the spiritual integrity and privacy of devotees visiting the sacred Dargah Ajmer Sharif.

The petitioner had also sought the court's intervention to appoint a new management committee, citing financial irregularities and administrative lapses in the current setup.

The case was argued by senior advocate Shadan Farasat, along with advocates Chayan Sarkar, Arshnit Sandhu, and Shailender Kumar on behalf of petitioner Syed Meharaj Miya.

Syed Meharaj Miya said, "The directions reaffirm the spiritual sanctity of the Astana Sharif and ensure lawful administration under the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act. This decision safeguards the sacred space of devotees and restores faith in the due process of law." *—Salar News*

ERNAKULAM-B'LURU VANDE BHARAT

A new Vande Bharat Express train for the Ernakulam-Bengaluru route was inaugurated at KSR Railway Station, in the City on Saturday. PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated four new trains, including the Banaras-Khajuraho, Lucknow-Saharanpur, and Firozpur-Delhi routes. However, a video of students singing the RSS anthem aboard one of the new train has kicked up a row *>>>More on Page 3*

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD

Security forces kill 2 'infiltrators' at J&K's LoC

SRINAGAR, 8 NOV

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have intensified anti-terror operations, with the Army foiling an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara and police launching raids across the Valley.

Two unidentified terrorists were killed after troops detected suspicious movement in the Keran sector on Friday night and challenged the infiltrators, who opened fire. The Army said searches are ongoing in the area.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted coordinated raids in Anantnag, Sopore, Kulgam and Handwara on Saturday, targeting individuals aiding terrorists operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The searches focused on associates of banned outfits, including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commanders Ghulam Nabi alias Aamir Khan and Zaffer Bhat, both based in Pakistan since the 1990s.

Several over-ground workers and sympathisers were detained for questioning over funding and communication links.

Officials said the operations aim to dismantle the terror ecosystem. *—PTI*

Be wary of digital & E-gold, says SEBI

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has warned investors against purchasing 'Digital Gold' or 'E-Gold' from unregulated online platforms, stressing that such products fall outside its regulatory framework and offer no investor protection.

In a public advisory, SEBI said it has observed certain digital platforms offering gold investment opportunities that are neither recognised as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives.

These products operate entirely outside SEBI's purview and differ from SEBI-regulated gold instruments."

SEBI highlighted that it has introduced several regulated options for investing in gold, which are governed by its rules. *—Agencies*

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Four killed as three vehicles collide in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI, 8 NOV

A tragic road accident near Avarad (B) village in Kalaburagi taluk on Friday night claimed the lives of four individuals. The incident occurred when a diesel tanker, a motorcycle, and a car collided, resulting in the immediate deaths of two bike riders and two car passengers.

The deceased have been identified as Nagendraappa Moolage, 35, and Shivakumar Moolage, 27, from Kamalapur taluk, alongside Datta Nagendra Chimmaji, 42, vice president of the Taluk Farmers' Association, and his mother, Chandrakala Nagendra Chimmaji, 75, both from Bhalki taluk. According to police, "Uttam Mailari Bhavikatti from Siradona village, who was riding pillion on the bike, and a woman in the car sustained serious injuries and have been admitted to the hospital." The bikers were returning from Kalaburagi after work, while the car was en route to Bidar. The accident occurred when the tanker collided with both vehicles. Traffic congestion was reported on the Bidar–Srirangapatna National Highway, and a case has been registered at Kalaburagi Traffic Police Station–2. *—Salar News*

AFTER 19 DEATHS

India to get 8 Botswana cheetahs

BHOPAL, 8 NOV

Eight cheetahs have been captured in Botswana in southern Africa ahead of their translocation to India under the cheetah reintroduction programme, launched in 2022 after the fastest land animal went extinct here decades ago.

The cheetahs, including two males, will be quarantined for a month and undergo a medical examination before being sent to India.

When contacted, Cheetah Project field director Uttam Sharma stated that the matter was being handled by the two governments.

"We already have enclosures and facilities ready for the third batch of cheetahs, which were prepared when the animals were earlier brought from Namibia and South Africa," he added.

In September, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia into a special enclosure at Kuno. India later imported 12 more cheetahs from South Africa in February 2023.

The country now has 27 cheetahs, including 16 born on Indian soil. Of them, 24 are at Kuno and three are at GSWS.

19 cheetahs- nine imported adults and 10 cubs born in India-have died from various causes since the project began, while 26 cubs have been born in Kuno so far. After importing 20 animals from Africa, India currently has a net gain of seven cheetahs. *—PTI*

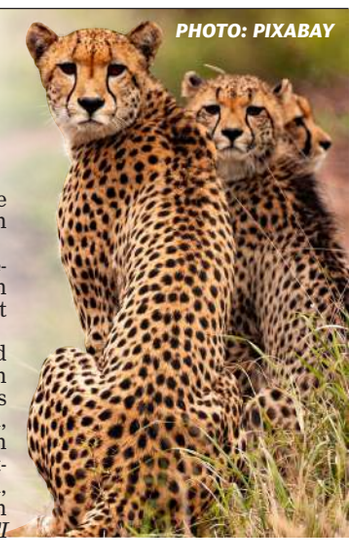


PHOTO: PIXABAY

PHOTO: ANI

Hunt for elusive Bandipur tiger intensifies

MYSURU, 8 NOV

Forest officials have stepped up efforts to capture an elusive tiger that has killed three people and injured another near Bandipur in the past 15 days. Believed to be a sub-adult still learning to hunt, the tiger has strayed into villages on the reserve's fringes. The government is likely to take stern action, including transferring some officials. On Saturday, combing operations continued in Saragur taluk's forest-fringe villages and will resume Sunday. Meanwhile, a forest watcher, Bangaru, was injured in a leopard attack near Yedavanahalli-Hediyala road during the operation. Locals, however, claimed he was attacked by the same tiger. In a separate incident, a 35-year-old farmer, Rangaswamy of Hadya village, died after being mauled by a wild boar in Nanjangud taluk. *—Salar News*

VP to visit Mysuru, Mandya and Hassan on 9 Nov

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan will pay his first visit to Karnataka on 9 November since assuming office. He will attend events and visit places in Hassan, Mysuru and Mandya districts. Radhakrishnan took charge as the Vice President on 12 September. He will participate in the commemoration of Parampujya Acharya Shri 108 Shanti Sagar Maharaj ji, paying homage to the revered Jain monk at Shravanabelagola, Hassan. The event marks the centenary year of the first visit of Charitra Chakravarti Acharya Shri 108 Shanti Sagar Maharaj to Shravanabelagola in 1925. The Vice President will also participate in the installation ceremony of the acharya's idol and the naming ceremony of the fourth hill. *—PTI*

CM meets Asian Badminton champion

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah felicitates Shaina Manimuthu, a 10th standard student of Army School, Mekhri Circle, Bengaluru, who won the girls' singles title in the under-15 category at the Asian Badminton Tournament held in Chengdu, China. She was accompanied by Dr A Chella Kumar, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee and former MP, and SE Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board. ***PHOTO: SALAR***

BJP won elections through vote theft, alleges CM

Says Modi has made independent bodies his subordinates

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday alleged that after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, he "destroyed all constitutional and independent institutions in the country" and made them, including the Election Commission, subordinate to the Central government. He accused the BJP of coming to power in several states through vote theft.

"We call BJP experts in lying; they are not just experts in lying, lies are their home deity. They have proved that they are experts in vote theft. Vote theft has become their profession," Siddaramaiah said. "BJP in recent years, through vote theft, have won Lok Sabha and Assembly polls and has come to power at the Centre and in several states."

Siddaramaiah was speaking after announcing that the Congress party has gathered more than 1.12 crore signatures against 'vote theft' in the State as part of its signature campaign.

Speaking to reporters in the City, he said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has exposed the BJP with evidence in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana.

"During the recent Bihar polls, people who had earlier voted in Delhi polls have voted in Bihar too.... Gaining power using unconstitutional means is against the basic principles of democracy and the Constitution," he added.

The Chief Minister said the Election Commission was responding "irresponsibly" to the allegations and not acting in accordance with the Constitution in a democratic system.

"It is clear from this that the Election Commission is functioning under the influence of the Central government. Not only now, after Modi became the Prime Minister, he has destroyed all the independent agencies or bodies like CBI, ED, IT and now the EC by making them function under their (ruling BJP) influence," Siddaramaiah said.

Meanwhile, AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan, who helped Gandhi investigate the alleged vote theft in the Mahadevapura Constituency said, "As the candidate from Bengaluru Central, I stand with every Indian whose vote has been stolen. This fight is for our democracy, our rights, and our future."

Opposition Leader R Ashoka hit back at the vote theft allegations, asking why Gandhi hadn't submitted an affidavit before EC yet.

He added that the real vote manipulators were the Congress. "The true intent behind the Congress government's blind folly in protecting lakhs of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Karnataka—without deporting them—is to enable illegal voting through their hands and win elections that way," he wrote on X.

—Salar News with Agencies

Minister Satish Jarkiholi, DyCM DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Rajya Sabha MP GC Chandrashekar & AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan addressed a press meet on 'vote chori', at KPCC office in Bengaluru on Saturday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

> **We call BJP experts in lying; they are not just experts in lying, lies are their home deity. They have proved that they are experts in vote theft. Vote theft has become their profession**
>
> -Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

> **If the Congress party truly cared about curbing vote theft, they should take immediate action against these (lakhs of) illegal Bangladeshi immigrants (in the State) and deport them right away**
>
> -R Ashoka, Opposition Leader

TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY?

The Shiradi Ghat route is a major lifeline linking coastal Karnataka with the City ***PHOTO: ANI***

Centre's joint expert panel to study Shiradi Ghat tunnel

MANGALURU, 8 NOV

The Centre has constituted a joint expert committee to examine integrated highway and railway connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru, including the proposed Shiradi Ghat tunnel corridor, according to Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta.

The committee, comprising specialists from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Indian Railways, will prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) covering technical feasibility, environmental implications, construction challenges and cost requirements, officials said.

Officials said the proposed tunnel aims to enhance travel reliability, reduce transportation time and boost commercial movement between the coast and the interior region.

Chowta said the integrated approach is expected to improve coordination, reduce duplication of work and enable quicker decision-making.

The decision follows a request made by Chowta seeking coordinated evaluation rather than separate studies by road and railway departments.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, in a communication to the MP, confirmed the committee's mandate to assess the viability and benefits of a tunnel system along the Shiradi Ghat stretch.

The Shiradi Ghat route is a major lifeline linking coastal Karnataka with the City and hinterland. However, the corridor has been vulnerable to recurring landslides, road closures and prolonged travel disruptions, particularly during the monsoon. *—PTI*

ED attaches Karwar Cong MLA's Rs 21 crore assets

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The ED has attached assets worth Rs 21 crore belonging to Congress MLA Satish Krishna Sail, as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal iron ore exports. A provisional order under the PMLA was issued on 6 November, with the assets held through Sail's Goa-based company, Shree Mallikarjun Shipping Pvt Ltd.

Sail, 59, who represents the Karwar assembly constituency in Uttara Kannada, was arrested by the ED in September but later granted interim bail on medical grounds. However, this bail was revoked by a special PMLA court on Friday.

The attached assets include 12,500 square metres of land in Chicalim Village, Mormugao; 16,850 square metres of agricultural property known as "Pedro Galle Cotta" in south Goa; and multiple floors of a commercial building in Vasco Da Gama, with a current market value estimated at Rs 64 crore, according to the ED.

The investigation stems from a 2010 case by the Lokayukta, which uncovered around 8 lakh tons of illegally transported iron ore from Bellary to Belekeri port. The agency alleges that Sail colluded with port officials to export illegally procured iron ore to China. *—PTI*

IN SEARCH OF ROADS

Opposition Leader R Ashoka with other BJP leaders protest over the condition of the roads at Govindaraj Nagar in the City on Saturday; Commuters navigate through a narrow mud stretch of Panathur Road. The main portion of the Kadubeesanahalli–Panathur stretch has been shut for white topping, forcing commuters – many of whom are IT professional – onto the dangerous stretch. Ashoka joked that DyCM DK Shivakumar has begun work on his tunnel road project ***PHOTOs: MOHAMMAD ASAD/ X @NarryTalluri***

CM: Centre helping farmers is a farce

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday dismissed Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's assertion that the Centre was responsible for improving conditions for sugarcane farmers, calling the claim "a farce." Joshi had accused him of making a "cruel joke" by blaming New Delhi for farmers' distress among growers.

The CM said the Centre ignores the widening gap between the cost of cultivation and prices farmers get.

"The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRA) fixed by the Centre at Rs 2,355 per quintal at 10.7 per cent recovery is being projected as a gain, with a 105.2 per cent margin over cost of production. This claim is a farce." FRA rose from Rs 2,210 per quintal in 2014 to Rs 2,355 today." *—Salar News*

Guv lauds role of music during convocation

MYSURU, 8 NOV

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday highlighted the role of music in emotional, cognitive development physical wellbeing of the people

Music has the power to calm the conflicts of the mind, transform violence into compassion, and unite humanity, Gehlot said while presiding over the 10th Convocation of the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal University of Music and Performing Arts in the city.

"Our Vedas declare 'Nadosmi Param Brahma' — Sound is the Supreme Soul. This divine sound awakens compassion, beauty and love within the human spirit."

He noted that in today's age of rapid digital and technological transformation, artists serve as bridges of empathy and cultural communication.

The Governor said that the institution is named after the legendary Hindustani classical vocalist Gangubai Hangal, who played a pioneering role in giving new identity to Khayal singing.

Honorary Doctorate degrees were also conferred upon theatre personality H Janardhana, music exponent BR Seshadri Iyengar and folklorist GM Sivaprasad for their outstanding contributions to society. The Governor congratulated them.

Seven scholars and five toppers of the university received gold medals and cash rewards. *—Salar News*

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot presided over the 10th Convocation of the State Dr. Gangubai Hangal University in Mysuru, Saturday ***PHOTO: SALAR***

ISRO releases data from moon's polar regions

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

ISRO has released advanced datasets from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter to help scientists study the Moon's polar regions in greater detail. The Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) payload, the first to map the Moon using L-band in full-polarimetric mode, has captured over 1,400 radar datasets since 2019. These high-resolution images (25m/pixel) have helped ISRO's Space Applications Centre develop data products showing surface roughness, potential water-ice deposits, and dielectric properties such as density and porosity. The indigenously developed algorithms have produced polar mosaics that will aid global lunar exploration efforts. ISRO said the datasets, freely available on the PRADAN website, are key to understanding the Moon's early chemical environment and the evolution of planets. *—PTI*

FAKE MOBILE NUMBER

Actor Rukmini Vasanth alleges online impersonation

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Actor Rukmini Vasanth has alleged that an unknown individual has been impersonating her and contacting people using her name.

Sharing the mobile number allegedly used by the impersonator, the actor clarified that it does not belong to her. She issued the statement on X on 7 November.

"I want to clarify that this number does not belong to me, and any messages or calls from it are completely fake. Please do not respond to or engage with such messages," she said.

The actor warned that the act of impersonation amounts to cybercrime and said appropriate action was being taken against those involved. For any clarification or verification, she urged people to contact her or her team directly.

Responding to her post, the Bengaluru City Police requested the actor to report the matter to the nearest police station. "These are fraudulent calls and messages. Please don't share any information with them," the police said in a reply.

Rukmini Vasanth is known for her roles in films such as 'Sapta Saagaradaache Ello', 'Madharaasi' and 'Kantara: Chapter 1'. *—PTI*

- The Bengaluru City Police requested the actor to report the matter to the nearest police station. "These are fraudulent calls and messages. Please don't share any information with them," the police said on X.

Man posts AI video of DKS pushing CM, booked

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

An FIR has been registered against an Instagram user for allegedly creating and circulating a fake AI video showing Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar pushing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, police said on Saturday.

According to the complaint lodged by advocate Deepu CR on Friday, he came across the video posted on an Instagram account named 'Kannada Chitraranga'.

The fake video, mimicking a news channel broadcast that is being circulated as breaking news on social media.

The complainant highlighted that the AI-edited fake video was shared with statements such as "Shivakumar pushed CM Siddaramaiah and the latter fell," "Happened during the meeting," and "Enraged DKS pushed CM."

The complainant alleged that the video was created with the intention of damaging the reputation of both the CM and the Deputy CM. He stated that such content could cause unrest in society.

Sadashivanagar Police registered an FIR under Sections 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 336(4) (forgery), and 353 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. *—PTI*

- The fake video, posted on an Instagram account, mimicks a news channel broadcast that is being circulated as breaking news on social media.

Priyank defends Disinformation Bill

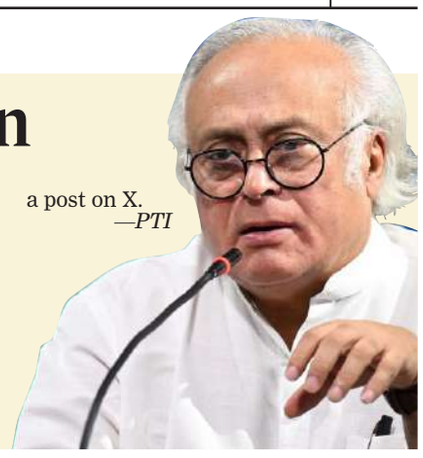
BENGALURU, 8 NOV

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge defended the proposed Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News Bill, saying that the legislature aims to curb misinformation, not restrict freedom of expression.

"The World Economic Forum has identified misinformation as the number one global short-term threat, ahead of even climate and economic risks," he said in a statement on Saturday. "Today we are witnessing how falsehoods destroy trust, trigger violence and distort democratic processes. In Karnataka too, misinformation has affected elections and public order."

"The intent of the Bill is to act only against harmful, deliberate falsehoods that threaten public safety and communal harmony,"he added. *—Salar News*

Opposition slams govt for just 15-day Winter Session



NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Opposition has described the dates set for Winter Session of Parliament as an "unusually delayed" and truncated session.

The three-week session will have 15 sittings in all and is expected to be stormy as it comes in the midst of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union territo-ries, an exercise against which several opposition parties have raised objections.

The Monsoon session of Parliament also saw vociferous protests by several opposition parties over the SIR in Bihar that led to daily disruptions in Parliament.

Soon after the announcement of the session dates, Congress general secretary **Jairam Ramesh** hit out at the government, saying the session is "unusually delayed and truncated". "It will be just 15 working days. What is the message being conveyed? Clearly the Government has no busi-ness to transact, no Bills to get passed, and no debates to be allowed," Ramesh said in a post on X.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien alleged that the government has "Parliament-Ophobia", describing it as a fear of facing the Parliament.

"PARLIAMENT-OPHOBIA. PM Narendra Modi and team continue to suffer from the acute condition called Parliament-ophobia, a morbid fear of facing Parliament.

"15-day Winter Session announced. Setting dubious records," he said in a post on X. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

WB 'SIR deaths': TMC forms teams to support affected

KOLKATA, 8 NOV

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has formed teams of party leaders to reach out to families of individuals who reportedly died from anxiety linked to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee instructed these teams to visit affected families starting Friday and to provide support as needed. According to a TMC leader, "These leaders will personally meet the families of individuals who reportedly lost their lives, either by suicide or due to stress and anxiety triggered by SIR-related issues." The TMC claims that the stress from the SIR process has caused widespread panic among the public, an allegation rejected by the BJP as politically motivated. *—PTI*

Centre invested ₹21,000 cr in NE's edu sector: FM

GOHPUR, 8 NOV

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday claimed that the Centre has invested Rs 21,000 crore in the education sector in the Northeast in the last 11 years. Several states in the region were put on the railway map and 10 greenfield airports constructed, she added. Sitharaman, who was on a two-day visit to Assam, laid the foundation stone for the state's first university focused on technical and vocational education and training at Bholaguri in Gohpur in Biswanath district. The Centre invested Rs 21,000 crore in the education sector in the Northeast. Over 850 new schools, AIIMS and over 200 new skill development institutes have been operationalised. The country's first sports university is also coming up in the region, Sitharaman said. *—PTI*

ED freezes PFI's Rs 67 cr assets in laundering case

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has issued a fresh attachment order to freeze assets worth Rs 67 crore as part of its money-laundering probe against banned terrorist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI). The federal probe agency said these properties were "beneficially owned and controlled" by the PFI and held in the name of various trusts, apart from that of its political front -- Social Democratic Par-ty of India (SDPI). The Centre banned the PFI in September 2022, after coordinated raids were carried out by the ED, National Investigation Agency and various state police forces, calling it an unlawful association that indulged in terror activities. *—PTI*

Since no Trump at G20, Vishwaguru will attend it: Cong

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Following US President Donald Trump's announcement to skip the upcoming G20 summit in South Africa, the Congress party has seized the opportunity to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi. AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh remarked, "Now that President Trump has announced that he will not be attending, we can be certain that the self-styled Vishwaguru will himself attend in person." The Congress had previously suggested Modi avoided attending the ASEAN Summit to evade a meeting with Trump. Trump, who has voiced concerns about human rights abuses in South Africa, referred to the G20 hosting there as a "total disgrace" and announced no American officials would attend under these circumstances. *—PTI*

Kharge rubbishes NDA's victory claims

Calls NDA's '400 plus' claim in LS poll bogus

GAYA/PATNA, 8 NOV

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday rubbished Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's predictions of the NDA's victory in the Bihar assembly polls, pointing out that their "400 plus" claim in the Lok Sabha elections was way off the mark.

He spoke to PTI Video in Gaya, where he insisted that "all was not well" in the BJP-led coalition, as there were doubts that Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) President and longest-serving chief minister, would be backed for another term in office.

"The Prime Minister can say anything. Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, they kept saying 400 paar," said Kharge, pointed to the performance of the BJP in last year's general elections, when it fell short of a majority. When his attention was drawn to the fact that Shah has been claiming that the NDA's tally could be "160 plus", he said, "I would again say you keep in mind their boast of 400 paar which came a cropper." Congress general secretary KC Venugopal also cast doubts over claims of victory, with 160 plus seats by Modi & Shah.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Patna, the party's chairman for media and publicity Pawan Khera claimed, "We (INDIA bloc) will win at least 72 out of the 121 seats which went to polls in the first phase". *—PTI*

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during a rally for Bihar Assembly elections, at Chenari in Rohtas district, Bihar **PHOTO: PTI**

EC: Record turnout of 65.08% in 1st Phase

A total of 3.75 crore people were eligible to vote

PATNA, 8 NOV

The final turnout in the first phase of the Bihar assembly polls is 65.08 per cent, the highest in the state's history, the Election Commission said.

A total of 3.75 crore people were eligible to cast their votes at 45,341 polling stations on 6 November to decide the electoral fate of 1,314 candidates.

The "historic" turnout of 65.08 per cent is 7.79 per cent more than the consolidated polling percentage of the previous assembly polls held in 2020, when 57.29 per cent of the electors had cast their votes.

Of the 3.75 crore voters, 1.98 crore are men and 1.76 crore women.

Two districts – Muzaffarpur and Samastipur – recorded over 70 per cent voting. *—PTI*

Women voters wait in a queue to cast votes at a polling station during the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, in Vaishali **PHOTO: PTI**

4 held for taking pics of EVMs during voting

Four individuals have been arrested in Bihar for allegedly taking photographs of Electronic Voting Maachines (EVMs) and posting them on social media during the first phase of assembly elections. Police filed cases in Ara, Gopalganj, and Saran, with two arrests in Gopalganj and one each in Ara and Saran. *—PTI*

RJD will put 'katta' on heads and say hands up, says PM

SITAMARHI, 8 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday alleged that the RJD-helmed opposition, if voted to power in Bihar, will put 'katta' on the people's heads and order them to hold their "hands up".

Modi, who addressed back-to-back rallies in Sitamarhi and Bettiah, asserted that the NDA would facilitate start-up enterprises, i better education and growth in spheres like sports.

"I had started my election campaign with a rally at the birthplace of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur", said Modi, recalling his election meeting last month in Samastipur, and added, "I am winding up my canvass here, in Bettiah, which is the place where Bapu Gandhi became Mahatma."

The "real job" will begin during the second phase of the Bihar assembly elections on 11 November, Modi said.

He alleged that the RJD had "transformed Bihar into a land of lathaits and dacoits".

The Prime Minister expressed delight over the high 65.08 per cent voter turnout in the first phase of elections. He also spoke of women-centric measures taken by the NDA, citing reservations for females in panchayats and municipalities in Bihar.

Modi called himself a "brand ambassador" of the heritage of Mithila, pointing out that he has been gifting "Madhubani paintings" to foreign dignitaries. *—PTI*

PM Narendra Modi with Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and others during a public rally, in Sitamarhi, Bihar **PHOTO: PTI**

> **Migrant workers are coming back home in large numbers to vote along with their families. Migrant workers used to vote for the NDA in the past because they had no alternative**
>
> - Prashant Kishor, Jan Suraaj Party founder

Rajnath challenges Rahul to prove 'vote theft' claim

SASARAM, 8 NOV

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegation of "vote chori" as baseless, urging him to approach the Election Commission if he has evidence. Speaking at rallies in Bihar's Rohtas district, Singh said the Congress was running out of issues and resorting to unfounded claims.

"If Rahul Gandhi believes votes are being stolen, he should file a complaint with the EC instead of making false accusations against a constitutional body," Singh said.

He accused the Congress of practising divisive politics based on caste, creed and religion, and criticised Gandhi for raising the issue of reservation in the armed forces. *—PTI*

LAND DEAL ROW

Parth's firm to pay double stamp duty

PUNE, 8 NOV

After Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's announcement that the sale deed executed by his son Parth Pawar's firm for a prime land in Pune has been cancelled, Amadea Enterprises LLP will have to pay double stamp duty, amounting to Rs 42 crore, for cancellation.

The firm must pay the earlier 7 per cent stamp duty (5 per cent under the Maharashtra Stamp Act, 1 percent Local Body Tax and 1 percent Metro Cess), as it had sought an exemption by claiming a data centre was proposed on the land. An additional 7 per cent has to be paid to execute the cancellation deed.

On Thursday, the sale deed of 40 acres of government land in the upscale Mundhwa area to Amadea Enterprises came under the scanner for want of required clearances.

Based on a complaint filed by the Inspector General of Registrar's office, an FIR was filed against Digvijay Amarsinh Patil, Shital Tejwani & sub-registrar RB Taru for alleged misappropriation & cheating. *—PTI*

Minister buys ₹200 cr land for ₹3 cr?

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Maharashtra Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar has alleged that Minister Pratap Sarnaik purchased a four-acre land parcel in Mira Bhayandar for Rs 3 crore, despite it being valued at around Rs 200 crore. The land is purportedly intended for an educational institute. "Can a minister procure such land for his own educational institute? If this is permissible, then let this be Maharashtra," Wadettiwar stated. *—PTI*

PM flags off Ernakulam to B'luru Vande Bharat

KOCHI, 8 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express on Saturday in an online event from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The Ernakulam Junction - KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express (06652) left the station here at 8.41 am, though the scheduled time was 8 am, to the sound of drum beats.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tourism Suresh Gopi said that Rs 3,042 crore has been allocated to Kerala in the railway budget. Gopi said that the Centre is also planning to transform around 29 stations in the state under the Amrit Bharat scheme at Rs 2,000 crore. He said that more trains can come to Kerala, and the only hurdle is the doubling of the tracks and straightening of the sharp curves on the existing ones. Gopi suggested the relocation of railway stations and creation of a railway hub in Kochi, on the lines of Chennai Central. *—PTI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with school students inside a Vande Bharat Express train at the railway station in Varanasi **PHOTO: PTI**

CHILDREN OF GOD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday shared a video on X of school children in Madhya Pradesh having their mid-day meals on a newspaper and said the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister should be ashamed for nurturing the future of the country in such a pitiable state. **PHOTO: PTI**

'Denying Sitamarhi as Goddess Sita's home is insult to Bihar'

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaigning in Bihar's Sitamarhi on Saturday, the Congress targeted his government saying it was an insult to Bihar's faith, cultural pride and Mithila's identity to say that there is no historical evidence of Goddess Sita's birth in Sitamarhi.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked whether Modi would publicly apologise before stepping onto the sacred soil of Sitamarhi.

He also accused the Prime Minister of "step-motherly" treatment and discrimination towards Bihar by not setting up a textile park there and cancelling the Motihari-Shivhar-Sitarmarhi rail link.

Ramesh said on April 12, 2017, in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP government stated: "There is no historical evidence of Mother Sita's birth in Sitamarhi" and this response was given by the Ministry of Culture.He claimed the Congress government had, between, planned to develop Bihar's major religious sites, including Sitamarhi-Punoura Dham, into religious-tourism heritage under the Ramayana Circuit. *—PTI*

BYPOLLS ON 11 NOV

3 parties lock horns in Jubilee Hills

HYDERABAD, 8 NOV

The 11 November bypoll to the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency is witnessing a fierce contest, unusual for a bypoll, with ruling Congress, the BRS and BJP leaving no stone unturned to win the seat.

The significance assumed by the bypoll is witnessed with Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy taking up a campaign in the constituency for several days, unprecedented for a chief minister to do so in a by-election.

Not only the CM, but the ruling Congress has pressed all ministers into the campaign. Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy, Union MoS (Home) Bandi Sanjay Kumar and senior BRS leaders, including KT Rama Rao, have also been canvassing in the constituency in support of their party candidates almost daily, undertaking 'padayatras', road shows and street corner meetings.Much is at stake for the three major parties as they battle it out in the triangular contest.

The bypoll's outcome would reflect the Revanth Reddy government's performance. *—PTI*

Delhi is most polluted city with AQI at 335

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The national capital on Saturday recorded an average air quality index (AQI) of 335 at 9am placing Delhi in the 'red zone' and making it the most polluted city in the country, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). PM2.5 remained the key pollutant on Saturday. Since Diwali, the national capital's air quality has been either 'poor' or 'very poor', occasionally worsening to 'severe'. Delhi's temperatures continued to dip, with the mercury settling at 11 degrees Celsius, three notches below the seasonal average. The city recorded a maximum temperature of 28.6 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The sky was expected to be clear during the day.—*PTI*

Punjab man with Khalistani links among 2 held

CHANDIGARH, 8 NOV

Two men, including one allegedly linked to the banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), were arrested in Punjab on Saturday, police said. Preliminary investigation revealed they were acting on the directions of foreign handlers and had smuggled illegal weapons from across the border to commit crimes in the state. Director general of police Gaurav Yadav identified one of the accused, Bikramjit Singh, as a KLF operative with a criminal record. He was also involved in the 2018 grenade attack on a religious place in Raja Sansi. Police recovered four pistols, a revolver and live cartridges from the duo. Further investigation is under way to uncover their wider network. —*PTI*

Woman forced to drink liquor for exorcism in Kerala

KOTTAYAM, 8 NOV

A young woman in Kerala's Kottayam district was allegedly forced to smoke beedi and drink alcohol during hours of torture in a black magic ritual, police said. Her partner, Akhil Das, 26, his father Das, 54, and sorcerer Shivadas, 54, were arrested on Friday, while the partner's mother remains absconding. The family allegedly invited the sorcerer to "evict a ghost" from the woman's body. The ordeal began at 11am. and continued till night, during which she was made to consume alcohol, sacred ash, and suffered burn injuries. Her father filed a complaint after her condition worsened. Police arrested the sorcerer from Thiruvalla's Muthoor area. Investigations are underway in the case. —*PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Rare plant species discovered in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, 8 NOV

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced that scientists from the Botanical Survey of India's regional center in Itanagar have discovered two rare Hoya species, marking a key milestone in documenting the state's floral diversity. Hoya chinghungensis has been reported for the first time in India, while Hoya acuminate is newly recorded in Arunachal Pradesh. The discoveries were made during surveys in East Kameng, Pakke Kessang, and Longding districts. Khandu congratulated the researchers for their "remarkable scientific contribution", saying the find highlights the state's rich biodiversity. The Hoya genus, known as wax plants, is valued for its star-shaped flowers and ecological importance, further emphasising the Eastern Himalayas as a vital biodiversity hotspot.—*PTI*

Flight operations at Delhi airport return to normal

Over 200 flights were delayed as on Saturday morning

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Airline operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport airport, the country's busiest airport, were slowly returning to normalcy on Saturday morning, a day after a glitch with the air traffic control system delayed over 800 flights.

The technical problem with the automatic message switching system (AMSS), which supports the air traffic control's flight planning process, continued for over 15 hours from before the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said that the issue has been addressed.

The airport handles over 1,500 flight movements daily.

Delhi airport operator DIAL on Saturday morning said the technical issue which affected the AMSS is gradually improving.

Apart from over 800 flights that faced delays, some services were also cancelled on 7 November, impacting hundreds of passengers.

Passengers wait at the entrance of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi amid the delay of flights on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

IndiGo airlines said the airport operator and air traffic control (ATC) teams were working on priority to fully restore systems and stabilise operations.

Flight tracking website Flightradar24.com showed that over 200 flights were delayed at the airport on Saturday morning.

The AAI, which provides navigation and other services, had also deployed additional manpower to prepare the flight plans manually which is a time-consuming process.

On Friday evening, the AAI said it has addressed the "technical issue in the AMSS, which caused delays in processing flight plan messages".

- Delhi airport operator DIAL on Saturday morning said the technical issue which affected the AMSS is gradually improving. The airport handles over 1,500 movemnets daily.

The issue was detected in the IP-based AMSS system on November 6.

"The original equipment manufacturer (OEM) was engaged, and additional staff were deployed to manually process flight plans for the air traffic control system to ensure uninterrupted and safe air traffic operations immediately," the AAI said.

"ECIL and AAI personnel are still on site. The AMSS systems are up and functional now. There may be some delays in the normal functioning, but the situation will be normal soon," it said. —*PTI*

'SYSTEMIC FAILURE'

Mumbai has just 8 shelters for 90,600 stray dogs

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

PHOTO: ANI

There are over 90,000 stray dogs in Mumbai, but the number of shelters for them is only eight, civic officials said on Saturday, a day after the Supreme Court directed relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination.

The officials said that more dog shelters required to implement the apex court's order.

The SC had said the recurrence of dog bite incidents within institutional areas reflected not only administrative apathy but also a "systemic failure" to secure these premises from preventable hazards.

The SC also directed the states and Union Territories to take appropriate steps to address the "deficiencies and shortcomings" pointed out in a report filed by the amicus curiae about compliance with the court's directions in the case.

The number of stray dogs in the city has dropped from 95,752 in 2014 to 90,600 at present due to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) effective animal birth control programme.

However, the eight dog shelters have no capacity because the authorities used to release the stray dogs after sterilisation as per the old mandate.

The shelters are also required to appoint dog handlers and veterinarian, besides making arrangements for their food and water. They have need to be fenced so that no dogs can escape or no outside canines enter. —*PTI*

MISSING MURDER WEAPON CAN'T RENDER CASE UNRELIABLE: HC

KOLKATA, 8 NOV

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The Calcutta High Court has confirmed the life sentences of three individuals convicted in a 1999 murder case, ruling that the absence of the murder weapon does not undermine the prosecution's case.

A division bench, led by Justice Debangsu Ghosh, stated, "non-recovery of the offending weapon... cannot render the case of the prosecution unreliable or false," noting that the murder had been firmly established through eyewitness testimony.

On 19 June, 1999, victim Sridam Ghosh was fatally shot on a boat in the Ganges river by appellant Dhanu Ghosh, who was allegedly incited to kill by his accomplices.

Despite the defence's argument that the prosecution relied on conjecture, the court affirmed the lower court's decision, highlighting the presence of at least three eyewitnesses.

The appellants' lawyer contended that the lack of the weapon compromised the case, but the court found the evidence against the accused overwhelming.

Addressing claims of false implication due to prior enmity, the bench remarked, "We are not at all convinced with such a defence put up by the appellants." —*PTI*

UK shared intel with Canada on Nijjar killing: Report

LONDON, 8 NOV

It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that the Canadian authorities drew alleged links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new documentary released this week has claimed.

'Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West' by 'Bloomberg Originals' reports that a British intelligence agency – believed to be the UK's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), often referred to as the country's listening post – intercepted calls that appeared to be discussing three targets- Nijjar, (Avtar Singh) Khanda and (Gurpatwant Singh) Pannun.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Khanda, died in 2023 at a Birmingham hospital in England's West Midlands region. He was terminally ill with blood cancer and the British authorities ruled there were "no suspicious circumstances" surrounding the death.

Sikh Federation UK said it has written to security minister Dan Jarvis demanding why the British government has intelligence that it has not shared or referred to "when asked by MPs representing the Sikh community."

Meanwhile, US-based Pannun claimed to be in fear for his life.

India has strongly rejected Canadian allegations as absurd and motivated and an attempt to smear India. —*PTI*

Artist booked for filming reel in Kerala temple

THRISSUR, 8 NOV

Jasna Salim, renowned for her paintings of Lord Krishna, has been booked once again for allegedly breaching the ban on filming within the Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Temple premises.

The temple police registered a case against Salim and an associate managing an Instagram page after they were accused of filming a social media reel at the shrine's "nadapandal."

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by the temple's administrative officer. Salim faces charges under various sections of the BNS as an investigation is underway.

An ardent devotee of Lord Krishna, Salim recently gifted a painting of the deity to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Thrissur.

Earlier this year, the police had also booked her for filming a video after adorning an idol of Lord Krishna with a garland, violating a High Court ruling against such actions in the vicinity of the temple. —*PTI*

Bail of Maulana, 5 others rejected in Bareilly violence

BAREILLY, 8 NOV

A court in Bareilly has rejected the bail applications of Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Maulana Tauqeer Raza and five others, arrested for their involvement in a violent incident on 26 September over the "I Love Mohammad" posters controversy.

Additional district government counsel (ADGC) Mahesh Pathak stated that Raza had urged members of the Muslim community to gather in Islamia Maidan despite prohibitory orders. When police intervened, rioters allegedly engaged in stone-pelting and stole police equipment.

10 FIRs were filed. Currently, Raza is in Fatehgarh Jail, while others are held in Bareilly Jail.

The court heard the bail plea on 7 November, leading to the rejection. —*PTI*

Delhi fire razes 500 shanties, 1 dead

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

A devastating fire erupted near Rithala metro station in New Delhi's Rohini, resulting in one fatality and injuries to another individual. The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) reported the incident occurred on Friday evening, impacting approximately 500 shanties.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated that firefighters efficiently brought the fire under control, deploying necessary resources. The blaze, intensified by exploding LPG cylinders, caused chaos as residents rushed to save their belongings.

The DFS received an emergency call at 10.56pm, sending multiple fire tenders and robots to combat the flames. The fire was managed by early morning.

A man, identified as Munna, died in the blaze, while another sustained injuries.

The Delhi government is extending support to affected families, providing food, water, and establishing temporary shelters. Gupta confirmed ongoing medical support and debris removal efforts, alongside a verification process. —*PTI*

Firemen spray water on charred remains after a fire broke out near the Rithala Metro Station at Rohini in New Delhi on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

India joins Brazil-led forest fund as observer

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

India has said global climate ambition remains inadequate even a decade after the Paris Agreement, as it joined Brazil's new global fund for tropical forests as an observer and called for developed nations to accelerate emission cuts and deliver promised climate finance.

At the Leaders' Summit of COP30 in Brazil's Belem on 7 November, Indian Ambassador to Brazil Dinesh Bhatia reaffirmed the country's commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement.

"India welcomes and supports Brazil's initiative in establishing the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)," Bhatia said.

TFFF is a Brazil-led global fund to reward tropical countries for protecting and ex panding forests. It aims to mobilise around USD 125 billion through public and private investment, using returns to pay nations that conserve forests.

India said COP30 is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to global warming and to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and respective capabilities were adopted. —*PTI*

EDUCATED 20 LAKH GIRLS

Indian non-profit receives Magsaysay Award

MANILA, 8 NOV

Members of Educate Girls' pose after receiving the award in Manila **PHOTO: PTI**

Indian non-profit Educate Girls has received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award and dedicated the honour to thousands of field coordinators, volunteers and youth mentors, who have helped bring millions of girls in the country back to school.

The award was announced on 31 August and the formal ceremony took place on 7 November at the Metropolitan Theatre in the Philippines' capital city.

Founded in 2007, Educate Girls works across more than 30,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar to break cycles of poverty and illiteracy.

With support from over 55,000 community-based volunteers, the non-profit has brought more than two million girls back to school and supported over 2.4 million children through remedial learning programmes.

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation cited Educate Girls' commitment to addressing cultural stereotyping through the education of girls and women.

Founder Safeena Husain said, "This award is for our girls, who inspire us with their courage, grit, and resilience. Girls who manage household responsibilities and study late into the night to build brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their country.

CEO Gayatri Nair Lobo said the honour is a reminder of the incredible power of people coming together, united by one purpose to educate girls.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation cited Educate Girls' "commitment to addressing cultural stereotyping through the education of girls and young women, liberating them from the bondage of illiteracy, and infusing them with skills, courage, and agency to achieve their full human potential".

A 25-member Educate Girls team travelled to the Philippines capital for the award ceremony.

Considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award recognises transformative leadership and "greatness of spirit". Awardees are selected annually through a confidential global nomination process. —*PTI*

REAL-LIFE SPIDERVERSE!

Scientists have discovered the world's largest spider web in a sulfur cave on the Albanian-Greek border. The colony has around 1,11,000 spiders and includes two rival species, Tegenaria domestica and Prinerigone vagans, now coexisting. The web spreading across 1,140 square feet is the first known case of such large-scale colonial web formation among spiders.

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

At COP30, India demands fair climate finance rules

India's statement, delivered on Friday, noted that this is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of climate change

PHOTO: FREEPIK

India's consistent commitment to climate action based on equity, national circumstances and the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) is intact, Ambassador of India to Brazil Dinesh Bhatia said as he delivered India's National Statement at the Leaders' Summit of the CoP30.

India has reaffirmed its commitment to equitable climate action at the Leaders' Summit held on Friday. India asserted that equitable, predictable, and concessional climate finance remains the cornerstone for achieving global climate goals.

The 30th Conference of the Parties (CoP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Belém , Brazil, from 10 to 21 November.

India thanked Brazil for hosting CoP30 on the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and recalled the 33-year legacy of the Rio Summit.

India's statement, delivered on Friday, noted that this is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of climate change.

"It is also an opportunity to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and CBDR-RC were adopted, laying the foundation for the international climate regime, including the Paris Agreement," India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in their statement.

India welcomed Brazil's initiative to establish the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), recognising it as a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests, and joined the Facility as an Observer.

Highlighting India's low-carbon development path under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the statement emphasised that between 2005 and 2020, India reduced the emission intensity of its GDP by 36 per cent, and this trend is expected to continue.

Non-fossil power now accounts for over 50 per cent of India's installed capacity, enabling the country to reach the revised NDC target five years ahead of schedule, it noted. The statement further underscored India's expansion of forest and tree cover, as well as the additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent created between 2005 and 2021. Additionally, it highlighted India's emergence as the world's third-largest producer of renewable energy, with nearly 200 GW of installed renewable capacity.

Further, global initiatives like the International Solar Alliance now unite over 120 countries and promote affordable solar energy and South-South collaboration, it added.

India emphasised that after 10 years of the Paris Agreement, NDCs of many Nations fall short, and while developing countries are taking decisive climate action, global ambition remains inadequate.

The statement highlighted that, given the rapid depletion of the remaining carbon budget, developed countries must accelerate emission reductions and deliver the promised, adequate and predictable support.

It was emphasised that access to affordable finance, technology, and capacity-building is essential for implementing ambitious climate targets in developing countries.

"India demonstrated readiness to collaborate with other nations to implement solutions and transition to sustainability in ways that are ambitious, inclusive, fair and equitable, based on the principles of CBDR-RC and national circumstances," the ministry said.

Reaffirming its commitment to multilateralism and towards preserving and safeguarding the architecture of the Paris Agreement, India called on all nations to ensure that the next decade of climate action is defined not only by targets but by implementation, resilience, and shared responsibility based on mutual trust and fairness.

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, in March 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a party offers to host the session.

At COP26 held in 2021, India committed to an ambitious five-part "Panchamrit" pledge. They included reaching 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity, generating half of all energy requirements from renewables, and reducing emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030.

India also aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent and is committed to net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's ambitious renewable energy initiatives are on track, and the country is currently leading the pack in South and Southeast Asia. According to a report by S&P Global Ratings released in October, India has made significant progress in renewable capacity additions, outpacing coal.

—ANI

SALAR ساہر

Deep-sea mining will disrupt marine food web

Drilling for minerals deep in the ocean could have immense consequences for the tiny animals at the core of the vast marine food web — and ultimately affect fisheries and the food we find on our plates, according to a new study.

Deep-sea mining means drilling the seafloor for "polymetallic nodules" loaded with critical minerals including copper, iron, zinc and more. While not yet commercialised, nations are pursuing deep-sea operations amid rising demand for these minerals in electric vehicles and other parts of the energy transition, as well as for technology and military use.

The researchers examined water and waste gathered from a deep-sea mining trial in 2022.

WHAT THE STUDY DISCOVERED

University of Hawaii researchers studied an area of the Pacific Ocean called the "twilight zone," about 200-1,500 meters below sea level. Their peer-reviewed findings, published Thursday in the Nature Communications scientific journal, say mining waste could affect anything from tiny shrimp smaller than 2 millimetres long to fish 5 centimetres long.

That's because, after mining companies bring the mineral-rich nodules up to the surface, they have to release excess seawater, ocean floor dirt and sediment back into the ocean. That creates a murky plume of particles about the same size as the naturally occurring food particles normally eaten by the zooplankton that swim at that depth.

That's a little more than half of the zooplankton in the ocean. If those organisms eat the waste particles — what senior study author Brian Popp called "junk food" — then that affects 60 per cent of micronekton that eat the zooplankton.

And that undernourishment is a problem because these tiny organisms are the food source up the chain, ultimately affecting commercially important fish such as mahi mahi or tuna.

"Surface fish can dive down deep into the water, they feed on organisms down at depth," said Michael Dowd, study lead author and oceanography graduate student. "If these organisms down at depth are no longer present because their food web has collapsed, then that can impact higher food webs and more commercial interests."

IMPACT ON THE WATER

While other research has highlighted the negative environmental impacts from deep-sea mining of nodules, the focus is often on the seafloor. This study looks at mid-water.

The researchers said more work needs to be done to assess the appropriate quality and depth at which dirty water and sediment from sea mining could be returned to the ocean. But they said returning the excess directly to the ocean floor or at other depths could be just as environmentally disruptive as in the "twilight zone," only in different ways.

Popp said digging up the deep sea might not be necessary, and instead noted alternative sources of metals, including recycling batteries and electronics, or sifting through mining waste and tailings.

"If only a single company is mining in one single spot, it's not going to affect a huge fishery. It's not going to affect a huge amount of water. But if many companies are mining for many years and outputting a lot of material, this is going to spread across the region," Dowd said.

WHERE DEEP-SEA MINING STANDS

It might not be viable to simply halt ocean mining. The International Seabed Authority (ISA), which governs mineral activity beyond national jurisdiction, has already granted several contracts for exploration.

In the US, President Donald Trump has expressed interest in deep-sea mining operations amid tense trade negotiations with China that have limited US access to China's wide swath of critical minerals. In April, Trump signed an executive order directing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis tration (NOAA) to expedite the permitting process for companies to mine the ocean floor, and in May, the administration said it would consider selling leases to extract minerals off the South Pacific island of American Samoa.

Last month, NOAA sent a draft rule to the White House to streamline operations.

Environmental groups have advocated against deep-sea mining, citing not only the direct harm to wildlife and parts of the sea, but also the disturbance of planet-warming carbon dioxide that is currently sequestered in the ocean and on its floor.

"It was well laid out in the study that the impacts wouldn't necessarily be just the depth that the plume is released," said Sheryl Murdock, a deep-sea postdoctoral researcher at Arizona State University who was not involved in the study. "The question being: Is it worth a few minerals to potentially destroy the way that the oceans function?"

Diva Amon, a marine biologist and postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, praised the research for examining potential consequences.

"There's a lot more research that needs to be done to be able to make an informed decision about how to manage this industry, if it does start, in a way that will prevent, essentially, serious harm to the ocean and ocean ecosystem."

—*PTI*

Researchers examined waste gathered from a deep-sea mining trial in 2022

PHOTO: FREEPIK

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

The perverse urban planning of Gaza's 'reconstruction'

From the very first term of Donald Trump, his son-in-law Jared Kushner had forged business relationships with prominent Saudi and Qatari entrepreneurs.

These individuals had financed – and likely rescued from bankruptcy – one of his real estate companies in Manhattan, and subsequently supported the company he founded after leaving his father-in-law's administration.

Today, Kushner no longer represents the American government: he is merely a businessman, who happens to be close to the president. His diplomatic role, alongside the US special envoy to the Middle East, real estate investor Steve Witkoff, is purely unofficial, and he is naturally not accountable for any conflicts of interest related to his business activities.

This complete overlap between diplomatic and business networks illustrates a politico-economic entanglement whose logic lies at the very heart of the Gaza project.

Kushner had already outlined the plan long ago: the Gaza coastline represents a real estate opportunity. However, its inhabitants must be relocated, for example, somewhere in the Negev desert.

To discuss this, Trump convened Witkoff, Kushner, and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the White House in late August 2025.

GAZA, A REAL ESTATE APPROACH

This document deserves attention not for its moral value — which is nonexistent — but because it illustrates how financial capitalism now dictates the very grammar of social life.

Trump's "peace project" replaces the commercial pacifism of globalisation with a Roman-inspired pax imperialis: first annihilation, then profit.

This model, reminiscent of Kushner's real estate deals in the Gulf, conceives of Gaza as a site for geopolitical and urban redevelopment, not as an inhabited space.

Gaza is no longer viewed as a city or a territory, but as a logistical hub linking Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the Mediterranean, a global duty-free corridor.

THE MOST SERIOUS ABSENCE

In the brochure for the "Riviera" project, the inhabitants of Gaza appear only as a residual category, perceived as a demographic obstacle or an Iranian pawn.

Two million residents are erased from history and replaced by a narrative where the "villains of history" are too bad to deserve any rights. And Hamas is mentioned only as a criminal organisation, without any political considerations.

Trump's "peace project" replaces the commercial pacifism of globalisation with a Roman-inspired pax imperialis: first annihilation, then profit

PHOTO: PTI

The plan assumes that a quarter of the population will emigrate, even more if economic incentives are offered.

A DEVASTATED LAND

The Romans were more sincere. As Tacitus wrote about the conquest of Britain: "They create a desert and they call it peace."

The same logic prevails here, without even pretending to listen to the voices of those concerned.

After two years of systematic destruction, the very fabric of Gaza, its history, its topography, and even its land registry, has been erased; within its 365 square kilometres, stretching from desert to sea, its population density is 50 per cent greater than that of Tel Aviv.

The damage is horrific: 61 million tons of rubble, 78 per cent of buildings destroyed or damaged, half of the hospitals out of service, and only 1.5 per cent of land still arable for two million inhabitants.

The cleanup would require approximately $18 billion, thousands of machines, tens of thousands of months of work, mobile processing units and specialised landfills.

THE ECONOMIC MIRAGE

Rather than addressing famine and the humanitarian crisis, the plan invokes the promise of a "Middle Eastern Riviera", a concept dear to Trump. It aims to increase Gaza's real estate value to $300 billion within 10 years, with over $100 billion in investments. Control and security would remain in military hands.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation would become a trust tasked with administering the territory "until a reformed and deradicalised Palestinian community is ready".

The list of potential investors includes major Saudi and international construction groups, the Bin Laden family, Tesla, Ikea, and Amazon. The "Riviera" narrative masks the true objective: land speculation and infrastructure monopoly.

DESIGN AS A TOOL FOR CONTROL

Urban design plays a central role in the plan. Like Haussmann's Paris, the project aims to eradicate insurrection through spatial reorganisation. The underlying assumption is that of a complete tabula rasa, material, topographical, and legal. The coastline is envisioned as an extractive frontier for gas and oil platforms.

The proposed spatial order is uniform and unsettling: seven or eight cities of 200,000 inhabitants each, defined by an economic function or a private actor, data centres, logistics, tourism, isolated and linked by corridors of infrastructure and surveillance.

AI tools produce deceptively precise projects, concealing a complete lack of empathy, experience, and human scale.

CATALOGUE OF PERVERSE PLANNING

The proposed plan for Gaza is not an academic exercise. It is the deliberate application of a perverse urban logic, designed to create a "safe" environment for global capital.

A logic that isolates, fences off, and commodifies every resource, destroys nature, represses social life, restricts mobility, and imposes surveillance and hostility. It annihilates agency, community, and dignity in the name of security and profit. One could conclude with an even more disturbing thought: the US of reactionary supremacists, who vow to annihilate the enemy within, look to Gaza as a model. Bombs to destroy, a developer to rebuild. What to rebuild, you might ask?

Warrior Pete Hegseth and promoter Donald Trump made it explicit to the 800 generals they recently gathered at Quantico: the enemy is among us, prepare yourselves, your next battle zones will be the cities of the US.

—*PTI*

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

No de-escalation in Sudan despite truce, says UN

CAIRO, 8 NOV

The United Nations said that violence was still continuing in the paramilitary captured el-Fasher city in Sudan, despite the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) reportedly agreeing to a humanitarian truce.

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said in a statement on Friday that he believes that "summary executions, rape and ethnically motivated violence are continuing" and "there is no sign of de-escalation." He added that there were "clear preparations for intensified hostilities, with everything that implies for its long-suffering people."

The RSF reportedly agreed to a ceasefire on Thursday, proposed by the Quad, a grouping comprising of the US and some Arab countries – but the national army had not signed on.. *—Agencies*

Cornell University agrees to $60M deal with US govt

WASHINGTON, 8 NOV

Cornell University has agreed to pay $60 million to restore federal funding and end investigations into alleged civil rights violations under a deal with the Trump administration.

Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff announced on Friday that the agreement safeguards the university's academic freedom while reinstating over $250 million in research funding previously withheld. The payment includes $30 million to the US government and another $30 million for research supporting American farmers. The agreement ensures compliance with the government's interpretation of civil rights laws, involving antisemitism, racial discrimination, and transgender issues. The deal is effective until the end of 2028. *—PTI*

Typhoon Kalmaegi kills 5 in Vietnam as toll mounts

DAK LAK, 8 NOV

Typhoon Kalmaegi struck Vietnam on Friday with fierce winds and heavy rain, killing at least five people, toppling trees, tearing off roofs and cutting power to over 1.6 million households.

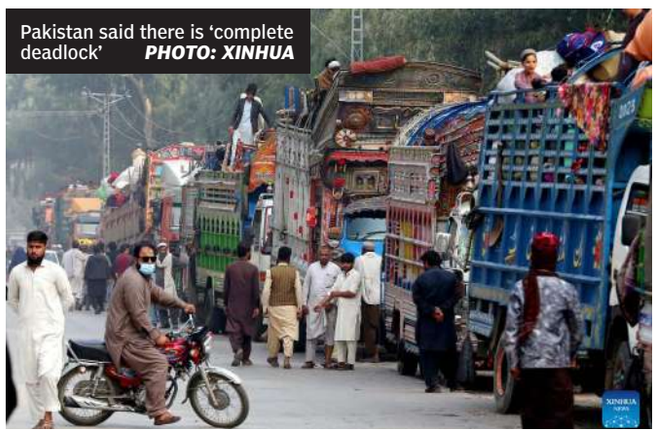
The storm caused major damage in Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Binh Dinh provinces before weakening into a tropical storm and moving toward Cambodia. In the Philippines, where Kalmaegi killed 204 and left 109 missing, survivors in Cebu mourned relatives lost to floods. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. kept a national emergency in effect as the country prepared for another storm, Typhoon Fung-wong. Both nations have endured repeated typhoons this year, and scientists warn that climate change is intensifying storms across Southeast Asia. *—PTI*

Tanzania charges hundreds with treason

NAIROBI, 8 NOV

Tanzanian authorities have charged hundreds with treason amidst escalating political unrest following disputed elections.

Numerous charge sheets indicate widespread arrests, including opposition figures such as Brenda Rupia of Chadema and secretary-general John Mnyika, while their leader, Tundu Lissu, remains jailed. After violent protests surrounding the 29 October elections, Chadema claims over 1,000 fatalities occurred, allegedly concealed by security forces. President Samia Suluhu Hassan won over 97 per cent of the vote, amid accusations of electoral repression, including ballot stuffing and voter intimidation, according to the African Union observers. Critics argue her leadership marks a shift toward authoritarianism, contrasting with past leaders who tolerated opposition. *—PTI*



Pakistan said there is 'complete deadlock' **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Afghan-Pak talks collapse yet again

Pakistan had said war is imminent if talks fail; Taliban calls it irresponsible

ISLAMABAD, 8 NOV

Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban ended without any agreement to tackle the thorny issues of cross-border terrorism as the deadlock persisted, top officials said.

The third round of talks began on Thursday and continued for two days. But Islamabad failed to get a written commitment from Kabul on the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants, which it accused of launching attacks against Pakistan from Afghan soil.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told Geo TV on Friday night that the negotiations were suspended, with "no programme for the fourth round of talks".

"There is a complete deadlock," he said.

Asif thanked Turkey and Qatar for their "sincere efforts" to mediate tensions.

"They support our stance. Even the Afghan delegation agreed with us. But, they were not ready to sign a written agreement," he said. "They wanted verbal assurances to be accepted, which is not possible in international negotiations."

Asif said the mediators had lost hope. "If they had even a little optimism, they would have asked us to stay.

Asif, who had earlier said that war was the only option if negotiations failed, warned that Pakistan would respond if provoked. However, he added that as long as there is no aggression, the ceasefire will remain intact.

On the other hand, the Taliban called Pakistan "irresponsible."

"The Pakistani side attempted to refer all responsibilities regarding its security to the Afghan government, while at the same time it did not demonstrate any willingness to assume responsibility for either Afghanistan's security or its own," Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement on Saturday. He claimed that Pakistan exhibited "irresponsible and non-cooperative attitude," but reiterated that the ceasefire would continue provided there was no provocation. *—Agencies*

146%
surge of arrests and detentions of Afghan nationals in Pakistan in just 1 week: UN

Gaza hospitals receive 15 bodies from Israel

KHAN YOUNIS, 8 NOV

Hospital officials in Gaza confirmed the delivery of 15 Palestinian bodies returned from Israel, linked to a US-brokered ceasefire agreement. The bodies were received at Nasser Hospital following the return of an Israeli hostage's remains.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the hostage's remains belonged to Lior Rudaeff, an Israeli killed during the initial Hamas attack on 7 October, 2023. Rudaeff, who moved from Argentina to Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak as a child, spent over 40 years volunteering as an ambulance driver.

Since the ceasefire began on 10 October, Palestinian militants have released 23 hostages' remains, while five remain unaccounted for. Israel has returned 285 Palestinian bodies, though only 84 have been identified due to a lack of access to DNA kits. Aid efforts in Gaza, while increasing, remain insufficient, with only 37,000 of the 200,000 metric tons of aid allowed into the region thus far.

Meanwhile, Turkey has issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu for war crimes. *—PTI*

Hungary gets 1-yr relief for Russian oil

WASHINGTON/ KYIV, 7 NOV

US President Donald Trump has exempted Hungary from sanctions over its purchases of Russian oil and gas for one year, a White House official said.

Earlier on Friday, Trump said he's considering the exemption when he sat down with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the White House.

"We're looking at it because its very difficult for him to get the oil and gas from other areas," Trump said.

Orbán argued that it's a "vital" issue for his landlocked country, and said he planned to discuss with Trump the "consequences for the Hungarian people" if the sanctions took effect.

Trump did this as Hungary had trouble acquiring oil **PHOTO: TASS**

Last month, Trump imposed hefty sanctions on Russian oil companies Lukoil and Rosneft over Moscow's war in Ukraine. These carried the threat of further sanctions on entities in countries that buy oil from those firms.

In return, Hungary had committed to buying US liquefied natural gas with contracts valued at some $600 million, the source said.

RUSSIA DRONES POUND UKRAINE

A Russian drone slammed into a tower block in eastern Ukraine early on Saturday while many were in bed sleeping, killing three people and injuring 12 people, including two children.

The attack in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, came as further to the east, fighting for the strategic city of Pokrovsk has reached a key stage, with both Kyiv and Moscow vying to persuade Trump that they can win on the battlefield. *—PTI*

US probes Russia roll in 2016 polls

WASHINGTON, 8 NOV

The Department of Justice has embarked on a fresh investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, issuing a flurry of subpoenas, sources said on Friday.

The grand jury subpoenas issued out of the Southern District of Florida seek documents related to the preparation of the Obama administration's intelligence community assessment that detailed how Russia waged a covert influence campaign to help Trump defeat Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

It was not clear if the new inquiry might produce criminal charges or even what criminal allegation was being examined and the list of people being examined is not known.

The full list of people who were receiving subpoenas was not immediately known. But sources said it recipients included former CIA director John Brennan as well as Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, two FBI employees who were involved in the Russia investigation and who traded pejorative text messages about Trump.

Multiple government reports have found that Russia interfered in Trump's behaviour through a hack-and-leak operation of Democratic emails as well as a covert social media campaign aimed at swaying American public opinion.

However, the Trump has freshly scrutinised that assessment in part because a classified version of it incorporated a summary of the "Steele dossier," a compilation of Democratic-funded opposition research. It alleged that some of the allegations were based on rumours. *—PTI*

No need to fully pay SNAP aid for now: Supreme Court

BOSTON, 8 NOV

The US Supreme Court on Friday granted the Trump administration's emergency request to temporarily block a lower court order requiring full funding of SNAP food aid during the government shutdown.

The administration argued that it lacked sufficient funds and sought permission to continue partial payments using the programme's contingency reserves.

Earlier, an appeals court had refused to halt the order, prompting the administration's appeal to the Supreme Court. SNAP, which supports about one in eight Americans, had begun issuing full payments in several states, including Wisconsin, Oregon, Hawaii, California, and New Jersey, after Thursday's court ruling.

- The administration argued that it lacked sufficient funds and sought permission to continue partial payments using the programme's contingency reserves.

Solicitor General D John Sauer said the swift disbursal risked depleting limited funds. The dispute has left millions of low-income households uncertain about when or whether they will receive their monthly food benefits. *—PTI*

Trump endorses Vivek Ramaswamy for Ohio Governor

NEW YORK, 8 NOV

US President Donald Trump threw his weight behind Indian-origin Republican leader Vivek Ramaswamy, saying he will be a "great" governor of Ohio.

Ramaswamy, an entrepreneur-turned-politician, had an unsuccessful run during the Republican presidential primary last year. Later, he endorsed Trump and emerged as his close confidant.

"He is something SPECIAL. He is Young, Strong, and Smart!" Trump said. "Vivek will fight tirelessly to grow the economy, cut taxes and regulations, promote MADE IN THE U.S.A., champion American energy DOMINANCE, keep our now very secure border...."

Ramaswamy, 40, was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He studied at Harvard and Yale Law School. He then started a biotech company, Roivant Sciences, which made five FDA-approved drugs. *—PTI*

Govt launches 175 probes into H1B 'abuse'

Trump administration has launched 175 investigations into H-1B visa abuse, including lapses such as low wages, non-existent work sites and the practice of "benching" employees. The federal department said it has "uncovered a bounty of concerns", with probe finding some foreign workers with advanced degrees are paid far less than promoted.

No official will attend G20 in S Africa: Potus

Trump said it is a "total disgrace" that the G20 will be held in South Africa, announcing that no American official will attend as long as "human rights abuses" against the ethnic Whites continue. Trump had attacked President Cyril Ramaphosa at their White House meeting, showing him images from other countries as proof of the alleged atrocities.

'Iran plot to kill Israel's envoy foiled'

Mexican authorities with assistance from the US and Israeli intelligence agencies thwarted an alleged plot by Iran to assassinate Einat Kranz Neiger, Israeli ambassador, to Mexico, Israeli and US officials said Friday. Mexican authorities denied any knowledge of such a plot, and Iran had denied the allegations.

AMID WAR THREATS

What's at stake in Iraq's parliamentary election

BAGHDAD, 8 NOV

Iraqis are preparing to vote in a parliamentary election on Sunday while the general election is set for Tuesday. The outcome will influence whether Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani can serve a second term.

The election comes amid fears of another war between Israel and Iran and Israeli or US strikes on Iran-backed groups in Iraq. This election will be the seventh since the US-led invasion of 2003 that unseated strongman ruler Saddam Hussein.

After Saddam's fall, the country fell into years of bloody civil war that saw the rise of extremist groups, including the Islamic State. But in recent years, the violence has subsided. The main concern of many Iraqis now is the lack of jobs and public services.

Under the law, 25 per cent of the 329 parliamentary seats must go to women, and nine to religious minorities. Speaker of Parliament is assigned to a Sunni, while the prime minister is always Shiite and the president a Kurd.

Workers prepare voting materials, for the parliamentary elections on 11 November, in Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday **PHOTO: PTI**

Voter turnout has steadily fallen. In 2021, turnout was a record low of 41 per cent. Only 21.4 million of the total 32 million eligible have obtained voter cards.

There are 7,744 candidates competing. They include Shiite blocs led by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and several linked to armed groups. Iran-linked Shiite militias are invested too.

There have been widespread allegations of corruption and vote-buying, and 848 candidates were disqualified.

Past elections in Iraq were often marred by political violence. A Sunni candidate in al-Tarmiya was assassinated this election too. *—PTI*

CM OF NEPAL'S MADHESH PROVINCE QUITS

JANAKPUR, 8 NOV

Chief Minister of Madhesh Province of Nepal, Jitendra Sonal, resigned from his post on Saturday after realising he would not secure a vote of confidence in the Provincial Assembly.

Sonal announced his resignation during the meeting of the Provincial Assembly on Saturday. Sonal alleged that House Speaker Ram Chandra Mandal conducted the session unilaterally.

Sonal, a leader of the Loktantrik Samajbadi Party (LSP), was appointed Chief Minister on 15 October after the former CM Satish Kumar Singh resigned. He had proposed the confidence motion under Article 168 (4) of Nepal's Constitution.

Out of the 107 members in the Provincial Assembly, three are currently suspended, leaving 104 active members. Sonal required the backing of at least 53 members to secure the vote. With the support of five parties totalling 56 members, he was expected to comfortably win the confidence motion. The ruling coalition under Sonal included 18 members. *—ANI*

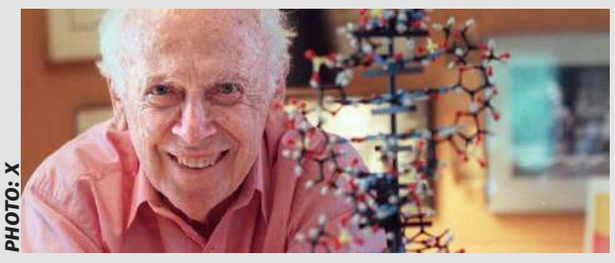


PHOTO: X

DNA pioneer James Watson dies at 97

20 AUG, 1931 - 24 SEPT, 2025

NEW YORK, 8 NOV

James Watson, the renowned American scientist who co-discovered the structure of DNA, has died at the age of 97. Watson identified the double-helix structure alongside British scientist Francis Crick in 1953, a breakthrough that propelled advances in molecular biology. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where Watson worked for decades, confirmed his passing.

The Nobel Prize-winning scientist faced significant backlash for his controversial comments regarding race and intelligence, which tarnished his reputation. In a 2007 interview, he expressed that he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa," stating, "all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours - whereas all the testing says not really." His remarks led to his resignation as chancellor of Cold Spring Harbor and the stripping of his honorary titles in 2019.

Watson was born in Chicago in April 1928 and pursued his studies at the University of Chicago and Cambridge University, where he met Crick. Their work, aided by Rosalind Franklin's critical images, ultimately unveiled the structure of DNA. Watson is survived by his family, including two sons. *—Agencies*

PHOTO: ANI

NoPaperForms confidentially files IPO draft with Sebi

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

SaaS-based enrolment automation firm NoPaperForms has confidentially filed preliminary papers with Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). Founded in 2017 by Naveen Goyal and backed by Info edge, the company provides a unified technology platform for educational institutions, covering student acquisition, lifecycle management and outcomes. NoPaperForms serves over 1,000 clients across India, the UAE and Southeast Asia, offering flagship products Meritto for student recruitment and enrolment, and Collexo, a full-stack fee management solution. The confidential pre-filing route allows firms to delay public disclosure of IPO details, offering greater flexibility. Other companies are also using this route. —*PTI*

ICAI, Army partner for real-time UDIN verification

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will help the Indian Army for real-time verification of UDINs through an application programming interface integrated within the vendor registration process of the Army Purchase Organisation (APO). Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) system has been developed by the institute to facilitate its members for verification and certification of documents. The institute has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the APO, Directorate General of Supply and Transport (DGST), Indian Army, to facilitate real-time verification of UDINs, a release said on Friday. —*PTI*

India's EV retail sales rise across segments in Oct

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

India's electric vehicle (EV) retail market in October 2025 expanded across all segments, led by electrifying gains in passenger and commercial vehicles, while two- and three-wheeler growth remained relatively modest. According to the latest data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), the electric passenger vehicle (PV) segment experienced a strong 57.5 per cent year-over-year increase in retail sales, with 18,055 units sold, up from 11,464 units in October 2023. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd remained the market leader with 7,239 unit sales, followed by JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd (4,549 units) and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (3,911 units). —*ANI*

Tea Board calls for effective adoption of food safety rules

KOLKATA, 8 NOV

The Tea Board called for an effective adoption of food safety standards, asserting that such a measure will enable the industry to achieve long-term sustainability. In the new plant protection code (PPC) released by the board, it said that the food safety standards will also help the industry safeguard the plantation environment and ensure the welfare of workers and small farmers. The PPC aims to achieve sustainability through good agricultural practices, including integrated pest management and promotion of alternative pest control strategies, to gradually reduce dependence on chemicals, according to it. Large-scale adoption of integrated pest management from the very beginning of the season will be crucial in ensuring food safety and adequate crop protection, the Tea Board said. —*PTI*

India's CPI inflation at an 8-yr low of 0.4-0.6%: BoB

Consumer Inflation was 1.54% in Sept & 2.07% in August

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Essential commodities such as pulses and tur dal witnessed a 29.4 per cent year-on-year decline, the largest since January 2018 *PHOTO: PTI*

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is expected to ease further and remain in the range of 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent in October 2025, supported by sustained declines in essential commodity prices and softening global trends, according to a report by Bank of Baroda (BoB).

The report added that the inflation outlook also appears benign, aided by the government's GST rate rationalisation and easing global commodity prices.

India's overall CPI inflation was 1.54 per cent in September 2025, marking an 8-year low, down from 2.07 per cent in August 2025. This decrease was primarily driven by a favourable base effect and lower food prices, with the year-on-year food inflation rate at -2.28 per cent. This was the lowest yearly inflation rate since June 2017.

According to the BoB Essential Commodities Index (BoB ECI), prices of key items continued to contract for the sixth consecutive month in October 2025, with the index declining 3.6 per cent year-on-year--the sharpest fall since its inception.

The downward trend persisted into November, with the index dropping 3.8 per cent year-on-year as of 6 November, 2025.

The decline in BoB ECI was broad-based, led by sharp deflation in TOP vegetables--tomato, onion, and potato. Prices of onions fell 51.2 per cent year-on-year in October, the steepest fall since December 2020, while tomatoes and potatoes saw retail price declines of 39.9 per cent and 31.3 per cent, respectively. Healthy mandi arrivals have contributed significantly to this softening, the report added. Among other essential commodities, pulses, especially tur dal, witnessed notable price corrections, with a 29.4 per cent year-on-year decline--the largest since January 2018. Meanwhile, edible oil inflation also showed signs of easing, tracking a moderation in international prices.

On a sequential basis, the BoB ECI dipped 0.1 per cent month-on-month in October, mirroring the overall trend. —*ANI*

AHEAD OF IPO

Think Investments infuses Rs 136 crore in PhysicsWallah

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Global investment firm Think Investments has invested a little over Rs 136 crore in edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah as part of a pre-IPO funding round.

The fresh infusion comes as the company gears up for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) next week.

As part of the transaction, Think Investments picked up 1.07 crore equity shares, amounting to 0.37 per cent stake in PhysicsWallah from 14 employees of the edtech firm.

The shares were bought at Rs 127 per piece, which is 17 per cent above the issue price. This translates into a transaction size of Rs 136.17 crore.

Think Investments is a USD 4 billion global investment firm, focusing on backing technology-driven early-stage businesses. In India, Think Investments has built a diverse portfolio with investments in some of the prominent companies, including Swiggy, FirstCry, Urban Company, PharmEasy, Experian, Spinny, NSE, Star Health, Meesho, Rapido, Chaayos, and Dream11.

Between January and July 2025, PhysicsWallah witnessed robust investor interest through a series of ESOP liquidations facilitated by Funds India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of WestBridge Capital. These transactions were executed at Rs 127-137 per share.

PhysicsWallah is preparing to launch its Rs 3,480-crore initial public offering (IPO), opening on 11 November. The firm has fixed a price band of Rs 103-109 per share, targeting a valuation of over Rs 31,500 crore at the upper end.

The issue will close on 13 November, with anchor investor allocation scheduled for 10 November.

The IPO proceeds will be used to fund expansion and growth initiatives. —*PTI*

Environmental clearance deferred for ArcelorMittal's Andhra steel plant

HYDERABAD, 8 NOV

PHOTO: FREEPIK

The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has deferred its decision on granting environmental clearance to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited's (AMNSIL) proposed 8.2 million tones per annum integrated steel plant in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh.

The company had sought clearance from the MoEFCC for its Rs 1.5 lakh crore project, which was considered by the EAC at its meeting on 30 October. Following detailed deliberations, the committee decided to defer the proposal and asked the Industrial-1 sector to seek clarification from the Controller of Pollution (CP) Division regarding the applicability of Notification GSR 85(E), given that the site had previously obtained an environmental clearance.

The Environmental Management Plan for the proposed plant entails a capital cost of Rs 3,540 crore and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs 355 crore. During peak construction, the project is expected to employ around 23,000 people 800 directly and about 22,200 indirectly. In the operational phase, the plant is projected to provide 3,000 direct and 4,500 indirect jobs, with preference for suitably qualified local candidates.

Sources said Notification GSR 85(E), issued on 30 January, 2025, specifies siting criteria for industrial projects. As the site allotment predated the notification, AMNSIL proactively sought compliance confirmation from the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, which issued it on 17 October, 2025.

However, the EAC's legal team sought further clarification, delaying final approval. —*PTI*

Experts urge India to build global rare-earth ties

CHENNAI, 8 NOV

Industry experts have urged India to open its doors to international cooperation in the development of rare-earth materials, stressing that collaboration is essential to strengthening the nation's supply chain and technological capabilities.

At the CII Conference on 'Building Resilient Rare Earth Metal (REM) Supply Chains through Technology Localisation' in Chennai on Friday, stakeholders underlined the need to work closely with friendly nations to succeed in the field.

R Saravanabhavan, Deputy Adviser (Minerals) at NITI Aayog, said India must adopt an open approach. "We should not set any limits on whom to partner with. Our idea is to open the floor whichever country wishes to join hands with us, we are ready to move forward," he stated.

Air Marshal M Matheswaran (Retd), former Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defense Staff, said India needs to build far greater capability before aspiring to lead in rare earths. "There's a big mountain to climb. We must work with friendly countries such as Japan, Australia, Singapore, Korea, the US, and the UK but no one gives away technology easily," he noted.

> At the CII Conference on 'Building Resilient REM Supply Chains through Technology Localisation' in Chennai, stakeholders underlined the need to work closely with friendly nations to succeed in the field.

Wing Commander P Madhusoodhanan, Vice President (Aerospace and Defence) at TIDCO, said Tamil Nadu and Kerala have abundant monazite reserves, but processing and refining infrastructure remain limited. —*ANI*

'Gold a good investment as prices decline'

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Christopher Wood, Global Head of Equity Strategy at Jefferies, has said investors should consider buying gold if prices decline further, noting that the bullion's 200-day moving average is around 23 per cent below its peak.

Gold futures were trading at USD 4,009.80 per ounce, meaning prices would need to fall about 16 per cent to reach the 200-day moving average of USD 3,371 per ounce. In his GREED & fear report, Wood described this level as "a good opportunity to accumulate more gold."

He added that recent reports of US job cuts have strengthened gold's investment appeal, signaling a softer labour market.

Globally, gold prices have risen on the back of inflation concerns, trade tensions, and safe-haven demand.

The report also noted that global central banks now hold more gold reserves than US Treasury securities, reflecting a major shift in reserve strategy.

According to the World Gold Council, central banks bought 219.9 tones of gold in Q3 2025, while analysts expect continued upside amid geopolitical uncertainty, US dollar weakness, and stubborn inflation. —*ANI*

India's data centre capacity to grow 5-fold by 2030: Jefferies

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

India's data centre capacity is expected to expand five-fold to 8GW by 2030, propelled by rising data consumption, growing cloud adoption, regulatory data localisation requirements, and increasing deployment of artificial intelligence (AI), according to the sectoral update by Jefferies.

The report added that the expansion will require an estimated capital expenditure of around USD 30 billion and is projected to drive data centre leasing revenues up five times to USD 8 billion by the end of the decade.

The report highlights that India's colocation data centre capacity, where enterprises lease infrastructure from operators, has already increased fivefold to 1.7GW, with occupancy levels at 97 per cent, underscoring strong demand.

Mumbai and Chennai together account for nearly 70 per cent of installed capacity, with Mumbai alone holding about half, given its proximity to undersea cable landing stations and the concentration of banking and financial clients. —*ANI*

Panasonic India Chairman Manish Sharma steps down after 13 years

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Panasonic Life Solutions India Chairman **Manish Sharma** has resigned from the company after steering the appliance & consumer electronics product maker for over a decade.

Sharma, who was elevated as MD & CEO of Panasonic India in 2012 and since been leading the company, will continue by the end of this year, helping for a smooth transition of the leadership.

When contacted by PTI, Sharma confirmed the development on Friday night saying, " It is a personal, thoughtful decision, and I would continue to pursue the manufacturing growth of the country."

Sharma said he will announce his next move in January 2026 after serving his notice period.

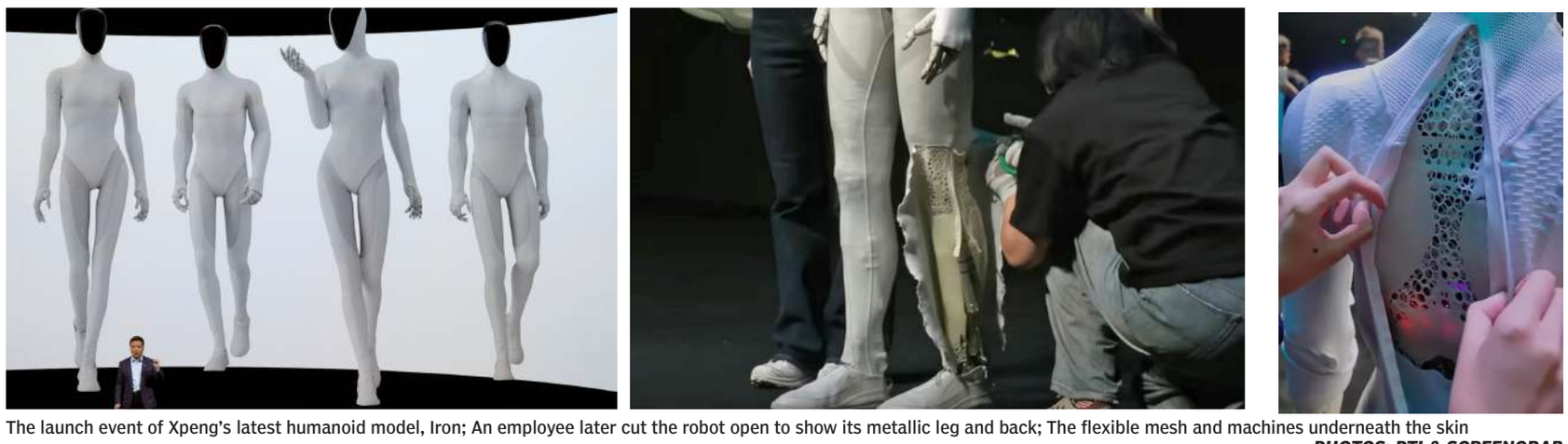
Later in a statement, Panasonic also confirmed the development and said Sharma has been instrumental in shaping Panasonic's business strategy, growth trajectory, and organisational culture in India. He will continue to support the organisation during the transition period, while Tadashi Chiba, MD and CEO, Panasonic Life Solutions India, continues to manage the India business, it said.

According to an industry insider, Sharma announced his decision to quit Panasonic in a town hall meeting of the company on Friday, in which Panasonic Corporation's CEO Masahiro Shinada was also present. During his tenure, Panasonic became a prominent name in the fast-growing appliance market. —*PTI*

STRANGER THAN FICTION

Is it a human or a robot? Chinese firm dismisses rumours

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT



The launch event of Xpeng's latest humanoid model, Iron; An employee later cut the robot open to show its metallic leg and back; The flexible mesh and machines underneath the skin *PHOTOS: PTI & SCREENGRAB*

Chinese electric vehicle company, Xpeng unveiled Iron, its latest humanoid model with impressive human-like movements at its AI Day event in Guangzhou, but what stole the show was when they cut open the robot to dismiss the rumours that a human was inside performing the tasks, said sources.

According to sources, the robot, which looked so 'life-like' sent whispers among people about the realness of the robot.

In a viral video, Iron can be seen walking across the stage in human-like pace. The body also had similarities that of a human.

A few employees approached the robot with a pair of scissors, and surprised the audience by cutting open the cloth of the robot's leg revealing a skin coloured material on it.

The employee was later seen cutting of the material revealing the metal parts of the robot, dismissing all the rumours revolving around it.

Videos also show the backside of the robot being opened up to reveal the same materials and machines underneath it.

Iron is not the first humanoid to fascinate humans this year.

A few robots that went viral are Tesla's Optimus, Boston Dynamics's Atlas and X1's NEO, said sources.

Science and technology continues its adventure to shape the human world by introducing new developments and perspectives on robotics. —*Agencies*

PHOTO: PTI

Rathika Seelan storms into NSW Open Squash final

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Indian Squash player Rathika Suthanthira Seelan stormed into her fourth PSA final at the NSW Open in Sydney on Saturday with a straight-games win over New Zealand's sixth seed Emma Merson. Second seed Rathika, semifinalist at the North Coast Open last week, did one better, by beating Emma 11-9, 11-,7 11-6 in 32 minutes in the last-four stage. The 24-year-old from Tamil Nadu, ranked 180 in the world, will meet Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen for the Challenger event title. Meanwhile, in Springfield (United States), fifth seed and world No. 51 Veer Chotrani advanced to the semifinals of the St James Expression Open, a PSA Copper event, with a hard-fought 7-11, 12-1,0, 11-8, 5-1, 11-6 victory over Egyptian second seed and world No. 36 Mohamed ElSherbini in the quarterfinals. *—PTI*

Norris grabs sprint pole title from rivals

SAO PAULO, 8 NOV

Lando Norris set up a chance to pad his one-point lead in Formula 1 by securing pole position for the sprint race at the Brazilian Grand Prix on Saturday. Of his title rivals, McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri will start third, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen will be sixth. "It was difficult and we did a good job," Norris said on Friday. Norris is coming off a win in Mexico City and leads the driver standings by one point over Piastri. Verstappen was 36 points back.For the sprint pole, Norris beat Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli by only 0.097 seconds, and Piastri was just 0.185 seconds behind. "We did the job we needed to do, which was to be the fastest today," Norris said.*—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Aramco China C'ship: Pranavi best Indian at T31

SHENZHEN, 8 NOV

Pranavi Urs finished as the top Indian at Tied 31 after returning a card of 2-under 71 in the third and final round at the Aramco China Championship, here Saturday. Diksha Dagar was the other Indian player to cut this week. Dagar carded a 3-over 73 on the final day to finish the week T-56 on the leaderboard. In her final round, Pranavi made five birdies and two bogeys. Having begun the day with two bogeys in the first four holes, she made four birdies in five holes to be two under for the front nine before she made more bogeys, followed by a birdie on the back nine.*—PTI*

At 111, India names record contingent for Deaflympics

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

India will send their biggest ever contingent comprising 111 members, including 73 athletes, for the Deaflympics scheduled to be held in Tokyo from 15 November to 26 December. Indian athletes will take part in 11 disciplines: athletics, badminton, golf, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling, and tennis. The Sports Ministry has approved the contingent on a cost-to-government basis. India had returned with a best-ever haul of 16 medals, including eight gold, one silver, and seven bronze, to finish ninth among 77 participating nations in the last edition of the event in Brazil in May 2022.*—PTI*

India clinch T20I series against Australia

Final match was abandoned due to heavy rain in Brisbane

Players walk off after lightning intervention in Brisbane **PHOTO: PTI**

BRISBANE, 8 NOV

India clinched the five-match T20 International series against Australia 2-1 after the fifth and final game was abandoned due to rain here on Saturday.

Put in to bat, India made a blazing start with openers Abhishek Sharma (23 not out off 13 balls) and Shubman Gill (29 not out off 16 balls) going on the offensive.

But lightning stopped play with India cruising at 52 for no loss in 4.5 overs. Soon after, heavy rain lashed the Gabba, forcing the match to be abandoned.

Earlier, Australia had its chances to remove the dangerous Abhishek early but failed to capitalise on them.

Glenn Maxwell dropped a sitter after the left-hander miscued a shot in the opening over, while Ben Dwarshuis spilled a regulation catch in the fourth over when Abhishek was on 11.

Three balls later, Abhishek thrilled the Indian fans with a powerful flat six over mid-wicket.

Gill, meanwhile, took a special liking to Dwarshuis, cracking three boundaries off the left-arm pacer in the third over to keep India's brisk start intact. The first T20I had also been washed out, while Australia won the second game by four wickets.

However, India bounced back strongly to win the third and fourth matches by five wickets and 48 runs respectively.Australia had won the preceding ODI series 2-1.

With the Ashes series and the T20 World Cup looming, Marsh said he was confident in Australia's overall balance. When asked about who would captain in the World Cup, him or Pat Cummins, Marsh replied with a smile, "Good question. I think I'll be there."

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav was all praise for his players, especially the bowling resources.

"The way everyone chipped in and the way we came back from 0-1 down, credit to all the boys. It was a good series with bat, ball, and in the field as well. Both fast bowlers and spinners know their job very well. "Bumrah-Arshdeep is a lethal combination. *—PTI*

ROHIT TRAINS IN MUMBAI AHEAD OF SA ODI SERIES

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Rohit Sharma **PHOTO: PTI**

India batter Rohit Sharma turned up for training at the MCA-BKC ground on Saturday in preparation for the upcoming ODI series against South Africa.

Rohit had quick chats with some of the Mumbai cricketers, who were bowling in the nets, and also exchanged pleasantries with his old friends Dhawal Kulkarni and Atul Ranade.

As the shutterbugs and curious fans clicked pictures, Rohit spent about thirty minutes in sprints and some light training. However, he did not bat in the nets.

Rohit recently featured in the ODI series against Australia and scored a century in the final game. Having retired from Tests and T20Is, Rohit now only features in ODIs, and as he hopes to continue till the 2027 ODI World Cup, it needs to be seen whether Rohit makes himself available for Mumbai in the Vijay Hazare Trophy next month.

Rohit's last appearance for Mumbai was in a Ranji Trophy fixture against Jammu and Kashmir last year. Earlier this year, he guided India to a Champions Trophy win.

While there are speculations that Rohit and Virat Kohli might not fit into the scheme of things for the 2027 World Cup, the chairman of the selection committee, Ajit Agarkar, had made it clear that it would be unfair to put the duo on trial regularly. *—PTI*

Abhishek registers 1,000 runs in T20Is

Abhishek Sharma became the second fastest Indian to register 1000 runs in T20Is on Saturday during the fifth match between India and Australia at The Gabba in Brisbane.

The southpaw breached the four-digit tally in 28 innings. Virat Kohli holds the record for being the fastest Indian to reach the feat — he did it in 27 innings. Abhishek, however, became the fastest player to reach the mark in terms of balls (528) amongst the top 10 teams, going past his skipper Suryakumar Yadav's record of 573 balls. In the ongoing tour of Australia. *—PTI*

Abhishek Sharma **PHOTO: PTI**

WORLD CHESS CUP

Harikrishna, Pranav are first Indians in round of 32

PANJIM, 8 DEC

Indian Grandmasters P Harikrishna and V Pranav made it to the last 32 stage of the World Chess Cup after eliminating Daniel Dardha of Belgium and Titas Stremavicius of Lithuania, respectively, by an identical 1.5-0.5 score at the end of the second game of the second round here on Saturday.

Having shown some sublime form thus far, Harikrishna was the first Indian to cut as Dardha achieved nothing with his white pieces, and the first game loss against the Indian proved decisive. It was a similar story for Pranav as he too had to hold with black pieces after winning the first game with white. As it happened, Stremavicius tried hard to break through the defense, but a calm Prnav forced the game to a draw in the ensuing rook and pawns endgame.

A draw was enough for Arjun to take him to the next round, while Praggnanandhaa played a fine game to win, as he had drawn the opener.

Raahul VS Becomes India's 91st Grandmaster

Indian chess player Raahul VS has become the country's 91st Grandmaster after winning the sixth ASEAN Individual Championship with a round to spare. The 21-year-old, also an Asian junior champion, achieved the title of International Master in 2021 by securing his fourth and fifth IM norms and surpassing the 2400 mark in live ratings.

"Heartiest congratulations to Raahul V S for clinching the ASEAN Individual Championship with a round to spare and, in the process, becoming the 91st Grandmaster of the nation.All India Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang posted on X. *—PTI*

ABRAR AHMED SPINS PAKISTAN TO SERIES WIN OVER SA

FAISALABAD, 8 NOV

Pakistan defeated South Africa in the third and final ODI of the three-match series at Iqbal Cricket Stadium in Faisalabad. The win came thanks to a brilliant bowling performance by spinner Abrar Ahmed.

South Africa won the toss and chose to bat first. However, their decision did not pay off. The team managed only 143 runs before being bowled out in 37.5 overs.

Experienced opener Quinton de Kock tried to anchor the innings. He scored 53 runs off 70 balls, including six boundaries and a six. Lhuan-dre Pretorius also contributed with 39 runs off 45 balls.

Pakistan's bowlers applied pressure from the start. Salman Ali Agha dismissed Pretorius in the 15th over. Pakistan 144 for 3 (Ayub 77, Rizwan 32*, Burger 1-29) beat South Africa 143 (De Kock 53, Abrar 4-27, Afridi 2-18, Agha 2-18) by seven wickets *—PTI*

BREAKING ICE

BCCI and PCB to settle Asia Cup Trophy row, confirms Saikia

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to "break the ice" on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai.

The Asia Cup Trophy wasn't presented to India by Naqvi, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairperson, after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position. Suryakumar Yadav's men defeated Pakistan in the final of the T20 event held in Dubai on 28 September.

"I was a part of both the informal and formal meetings of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi was also present. During the course of a formal meeting, it was not on the agenda, but ICC facilitated a meeting between me and the PCB chief separately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official," Saikia told PTI on Saturday.

"It was really good to start the process of negotiation. Both sides cordially participated in the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the ICC board meeting," he added, assuring that a solution will be worked out soon. *—PTI*

RAVINDER WINS 50M PISTOL GOLD AT ISSF WORLD C'SHIPS

CAIRO, 8 NOV

Veteran army marksman Ravinder Singh brought India glory on the opening day of the ISSF World Championships (Pistol/Rifle), clinching the individual gold and team silver in 50m free pistol, here on Saturday.

This is the biggest achievement for the 29-year-old Havildar in the Indian Army, who hails from Bishnah town in Jammu & Kashmir, after he had won an individual bronze in the 2023 edition of the Worlds in Baku. Ravinder, who has been in and out of the India squad since 2019, shot a superb 569 in the non-Olympic event to take the top podium finish ahead of Kim Cheongyong of South Korea.

Elavenil Valarivan wins bronze

Asian Champion Elavenil Valarivan clinched the bronze medal in the Women's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Championships in Cairo on Saturday.

Finishing with a score of 232.0, the Indian shooter displayed exceptional form throughout the final. *—PTI*

FORMER WORLD NO.1 TAI TZU-YING RETIRES FROM BADMINTON

TOKYO, 8 NOV

Olympics silver medallist and women's badminton great Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei has announced her retirement from the sport, bringing the curtains down on a glittering career during which she won 17 BWF World Tour titles and finished runner-up in 12 tournaments.

The 31-year-old shuttler, known for her artistry and wrist wizardry, cited recurring injuries as the reason behind her decision. Her last BWF title came at the India Open in 2024. "A beautiful chapter has come to an end. Thank you, badminton, for everything you have given me," Tai Tzu wrote on her Instagram account on Friday.

"Eventually, my injuries forced me to leave the court. I couldn't end my career the way I had hoped, and it took me a while to come to terms with that.

Born in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung, the former world no. 1 has been battling injuries since last year and has been unable to return to the international circuit. *—PTI*

Ranji Trophy: Agarwal's gritty 80 anchors K'taka

CAIRO, 8 NOV

Seasoned opener Mayank Agarwal showcased patience and discipline, while veteran off-spinner Jalaj Saxena exhibited his craft in a fascinating duel that defined the opening day's play of the Ranji Trophy Group B clash between Karnataka and Maharashtra at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Saturday.

Agarwal's gritty 80 (181 b, 7x4, 2x6) anchored Karnataka's innings before he fell to Saxena (3/80) late in the final session. Despite slipping to 194 for five, Abhinav Manohar and Shreyas Gopal steadied the visitor, guiding it to 257 for five at stumps.

Winning the toss, Agarwal and K.V. Aneesh gave Karnataka a composed start. Aneesh, more fluent of the two, began confidently by driving Rajneesh Gurbani through covers in the opening over. With Mukesh Choudhary struggling for rhythm, Maharashtra introduced spin early and Saxena struck immediately.

His very first delivery turned sharply into Aneesh, trapping him leg-before to break the 66-run stand. Saxena's third over produced a gem that breached K.L. Shrijith's defence and rattled his stumps.

Minutes later, pacer Ramakrishna Ghosh delivered a peach to dismiss Karun Nair, beating his inside edge with a delivery that seamed in to uproot off and middle. *—PTI*

SINNER DEFENDS ATP FINALS TITLE WITH CARLOS ALCARAZ

RIYADH, 8 NOV

In The HuntJannik Sinner will begin his bid to retain his ATP Finals title on Sunday and cap a turbulent year, which could end with another showdown with his great rival Carlos Alcaraz. World number one Sinner has won two Grand Slams, including a landmark victory in the Wimbledon final against Alcaraz, since cruising to victory in Turin this time last year. Sinner and Alcaraz are almost certain to qualify from their respective Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors groups, and another epic clash between the world's two best players in either the last four or final of the eight-man tournament is a tantalising prospect.

"If I manage to do it great, if not I've still had an incredible season, one with not a lot of tournaments but with a lot of matches played and plenty won," Sinner told reporters on Friday.

"The first match is really important because usually you don't play against one of the best eight players in the world, and that's what makes it different for everyone." *—PTI*

ISL CRISIS

Mohun Bagan halts football activities

KOLKATA, 8 NOV

Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Saturday suspended all their football activities indefinitely, a day after the AIFF failed to receive a single bid for ISL's commercial rights, and said they will review contracts of players and support staff next month.

Late on Friday, the AIFF announced that it had not received any bid for the commercial rights of the already delayed ISL, leaving the future of the country's domestic football in disarray."Our players were to assemble on Monday for the camp from the next day. But now our camp has been suspended indefinitely till there is clarity on the Indian Super League," a Mohun Bagan official told PTI."Now that the season is delayed with uncertainty on ISL, we will review all contracts next month.

But we have not stopped anybody's salary; everyone is paid," the official added. The AIFF had floated the Request for Proposals on 16 October for a 15-year contract to monetise the league's commercial rights.

The submission deadline was November 7, with bids scheduled to be opened on November 11.The Bid Evaluation Committee, headed by (retired) Justice Nageswara Rao and appointed by the Supreme Court, will meet later in the day to discuss the future course of action.The Mohun Bagan official also said that the club would not suspend the salary of head coach Jose Molina, who is on a "break" following his outburst against the team management after their Super Cup exit. *—PTI*